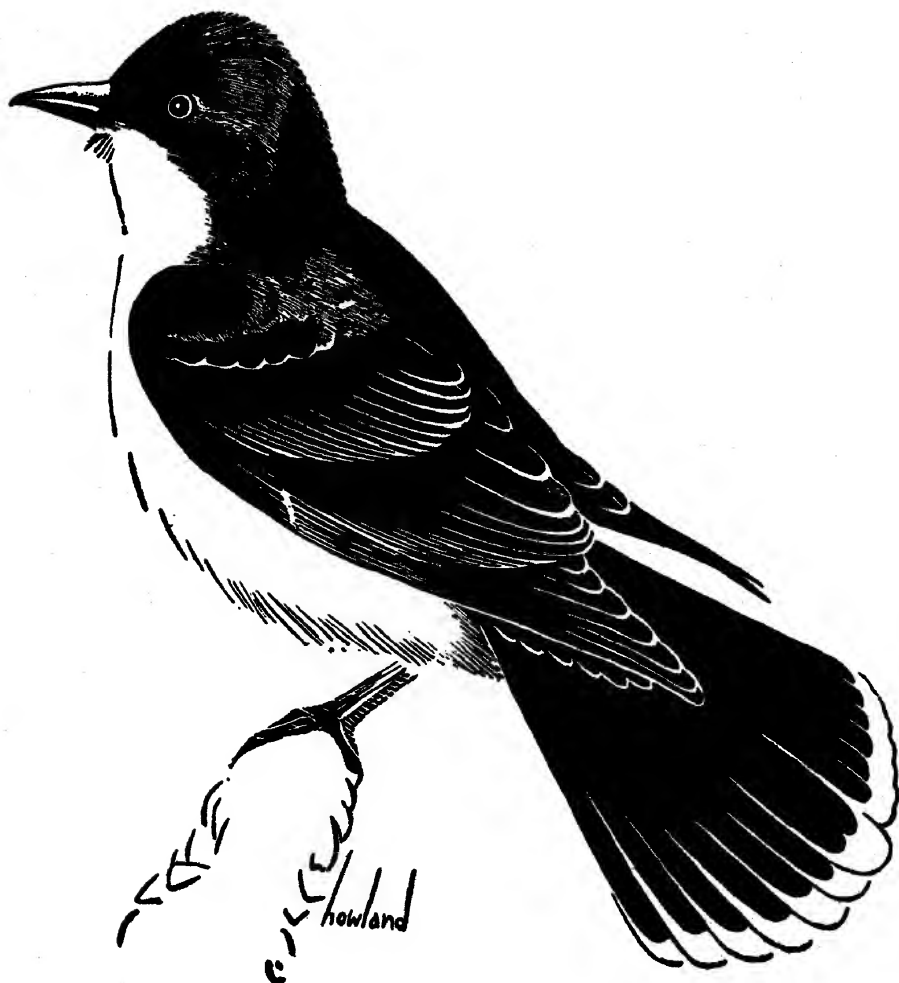


The **KINGBIRD**



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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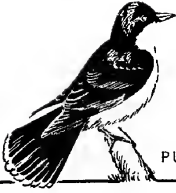
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(Signed) Frederick C. Dittrich,
Circulation Manager



The KINGBIRD

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Vol. XX No. 4

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Annual Meeting at Watertown, resounding success, is past and now we look forward to the 1971 meeting to be held at Lake Mohonk Mountain Lodge. We'd like to thank here our host organization at Watertown, the North Country Bird Club, for their fine hospitality.

The Federation is, in spite of being healthy, experiencing some growing pains. The pressures on our environment have resulted in more of the member clubs becoming active in the conservation field and even acquiring their own sanctuary lands. The growing realization of the importance of education in environmental affairs had led to more use of natural areas by the public schools for education and more requests for aid from the private clubs and more problems in how to budget our efforts more effectively. At the Watertown meeting it was decided to divide the State into three areas and appoint (later elect) area representatives who would hold regional meetings to deal with pressing problems and to facilitate the business of the Federation at the annual get-together. Only by working together and speeding up communications may we do a better job for the member clubs and our communities. Reports from these area meetings could enhance our journal *The Kingbird*. We are sending a letter to each member club asking for nominations or suggestions as to who might accept the area appointments—we hope each club will assist us by sending names to us for consideration.

E. M. Reilly, Jr.
President

A POPULATION INDEX OF BREEDING BIRDS IN ALLEGANY COUNTY

CLARENCE KLINGENSMITH

The design of the Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey (Robbins and van Velzen 1967, 1969) has been adapted to obtain a population index of breeding birds in Allegany County, New York, for the 1970 season. The county, which is nearly rectangular, was divided into nine 10- to 12-minute blocks of latitude and longitude, bounded by Longitudes 7755 and 7805, by Latitudes 4210 and 4220, by the north, south, east, and west boundaries of the county. Two 12-mile routes were laid out along available roads within each of the blocks, the starting points and compass directions being selected by methods of random sampling. Twenty five stations, or "stops," spaced one-half mile apart, comprise the sampling unit referred to as a "route."

The 18 routes thus established provide a total of 450 sampling stations for Allegany County of total area 1047 square miles. This gives a sampling density of one station for every 2.3 square miles. For the F. and W.S. Survey eight routes per degree block provide 400 stations in approximately 3500 square miles, or one station per 8.7 square miles. The Allegany County survey thus provides about 4 times the sampling density.

As in the F. and W.S. Survey, observers were instructed to record all birds heard and those birds seen within one-fourth mile radius during a 3-minute period at each stop. The routes were run on any day during June with starting times set 30 minutes before sunrise and the routes completed within 2.0–2.5 hours. Weather conditions adversely effecting visibility, hearing and bird activity were avoided by selecting days when sky conditions, wind velocities and temperatures were favorable and within adopted standards.

Pertinent data for 17 of the 18 routes, which were completed during June 1970 with the help of 15 observers and assistants (to record and drive), are listed in Table I. Tables II and III contain compilations of the data for all routes. The average total count per 12-mile route was 531 individuals, the variation being from 195 to 949. The number of different species per route varied from 21 to 63, the average being 48. Interested readers may compare these figures with the corresponding values obtained for the F. and W.S. Surveys, as reported in several sum-

maries (Klabunde 1969, Robbins and van Velzen 1967, 1969, Yunich 1968), taking into account in making comparisons that the routes on the F. and W.S. Survey contain twice as many counting stations and extend for 24.5 miles rather than 12-miles. Thus, the total count per 12-mile route is likely to be one-half as large while the number of species has the probability of being less.

It is evident from Table II that two species, the Redwinged Blackbird and the Robin, head the list of the most abundant birds, and together account for one fourth of the cumulated total count. An additional three species, Common Grackle, Starling, and Song Sparrow, increases the cumulated total to nearly one half, while three more species, Common Crow, House Sparrow, and American Goldfinch raises it to nearly two thirds. The 32 species in Table II, listed in the decreasing order of abundance, account for 90% of the individuals recorded. The remaining 10% of the birds are represented among the 61 species listed in Table III; these are the least abundant species.

When one examines relative abundance on the basis of the birds recorded on the individual routes, a tally of the 5 most abundant species on each route includes 11 species which, with the exception of the Bank Swallow, are the first 10 species in Table II, but not in the same order. The Redwinged Blackbird heads the lists of the 5 most abundant species on 8 routes and the Robin on 6; these are the only two species that are on this list for each of the 17 routes. The Common Grackle is listed among the top 5 on 9 routes, the Starling on 9, the Song Sparrow on 13, the Common Crow on 10, the House Sparrow on 4, the American Goldfinch on 2, the Chipping Sparrow on 2, and the Barn Swallow and Bank Swallow each on one. The Bank Swallow, which is 19th in relative abundance for the county heads the list for Route 91, no doubt by virtue of its being a colonial breeder.

Among the least abundant species listed in Table III are 8 species for which only one individual was recorded. This list includes Bobwhite, American Woodcock, Upland Plover, Great Horned Owl, Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Magnolia Warbler, and Myrtle Warbler. Fourteen other species were listed with only 2 to 5 individuals. Six out of these 22 least abundant species are warblers.

Although one might wonder by how much of an accident a single individual of a species of low abundance becomes included on a sample count, it does happen that the Myrtle Warbler listed on this survey was

recorded on Route 21 in an area where their presence as a potential breeding bird was first observed about 3 years ago and observations suggest that their number during the breeding season have been on the increase since that time. Also 4 White-throated Sparrows were recorded by the author on Route 21 near Palmer's Pond in a State Reforestation area that was established over 30 years ago. All four birds responded by song, nearly simultaneously, with very little coaxing. It will be of interest to see whether White-throats will be recorded at the same station next year.

The distribution of the birds in the county may be assessed from the data in the two columns headed "relative frequency" in Table II. The first gives the percentage of the 425 stations at which the particular species was observed, the second gives the percentage of the 17 routes. The Robin and Song Sparrow head this list, followed by Redwinged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Starling, Field Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow. It may also be seen that 13 species were recorded on all of the 17 routes.

No attempt has been made in this initial study to establish the statistical reliability of the results. There are likely to be comparisons and points of interest other than those mentioned above that can be culled from the data. The immediate value of the study seems to be that it provides some degree of quantitative measure to relative abundance and to distribution that did not exist previously. If the survey can be repeated annually it is possible that significant changes in the breeding bird population of this county can be measured and trends noted that possibly reflect ecological changes. It might also be desirable to add to this type of sampling some additional techniques that would more accurately measure the relative abundance of such species as the early and late breeders, species that are secretive or inconspicuous, or those that favor habitats that road systems avoid.

It is essential to point out that a project of this kind requires the generous cooperation of a number of competent bird observers. A sincere word of thanks is due the observers and assistants, all active members of the Allegany County Bird Club, whose names are listed in Table I. Grateful acknowledgment is also in order for the financial support and encouragement provided by the Board of Governors of the Alfred University Research Foundation.

Table I. Location of Routes and Summary of Total Counts.

Route Number Name* Lat.—Long.**	Date	Species Total	Total Count	Species with Five Highest Counts (Number of Individuals)
11 Andover N4209 W7754	6-23-70	36	315	Robin 60, C. Grackle 31, Crow 29, Redwing 27, Song Sparrow 24
12 Willing N4202 W7750	6-26-70	40	287	Redwing 44, C. Grackle 42, Robin 26, Song Sparrow 17, Crow 16
21 W. Almond N4216 W7750	6-21-70	55	426	Robin 71, Song Sparrow 44, Red- wing 28, Chipping Sparrow 22, Crow 21
22 Alfred N4215 W7746	6-19-70	52	544	Robin 99, Redwing 90, Starling 34, Song Sparrow 34, C. Grackle 27
31 Almond N4227 W7746	6-20-70	49	744	Redwing 123, Robin 112, House Sparrow 73, Song Sparrow 64, Crow 41
32 Grove N4226 W7753	6-19-70	52	722	Redwing 144, Robin 65, House Sparrow 55, C. Grackle 46, Song Sparrow 38
41 Scio N4209 W7802	6-11-70	50	458	Robin 58, Starling 54, Song Spar- row 34, Redwing 33, Crow 19
51 Amity N4210 W7757	6-22-70	50	572	Redwing 102, Robin 71, Starling 70, C. Grackle 46, Song Sparrow 36
52 Angelica N4218 W7759	6-18-70	52	469	Robin 90, Redwing 67, Song Spar- row 55, C. Grackle 21, Chipping Sparrow 21
61 Granger N4222 W7804	6-13-70	42	378	Crow 63, C. Grackle 62, Redwing 45, Song Sparrow 28, Robin 26
62 Allen 1 N4220 W7757	6-15-70	43	340	Redwing 72, Robin 35, Barn Swal- low 33, Song Sparrow 25, Crow 18
71 Genesee N4204 W7809	6-28-70	21	195	C. Grackle 79, Redwing 28, Crow 19, Robin 18, Song Sparrow 8
72 Wirt N4207 W7808	6-20-70	48	420	Robin 73, Redwing 69, Starling 46, Song Sparrow 27, Crow 21
81 Friendship N4214 W 7805	6-22-70	50	777	Redwing 112, Robin 107, Starling 103, C. Grackle 101, House Spar- row 66
82 New Hudson N4213 W7815	6-24-70	51	615	Redwing 120, Robin 92, Song Sparrow 57, C. Grackle 51, Crow 31
91 Rushford N4221 W7808	6-30-70	58	808	Bank Swallow 75, Goldfinch 68, Redwing 61, Starling 50, Robin 47
92 Caneadea N4224 W7809	6-14-70	61	949	Redwing 155, Starling 116, Robin 88, Goldfinch 77, House Sparrow 65
Total		93	9019	
Average		47.6	531	

* The name corresponds to the township in which a large part of the route lies.

** The Latitude and Longitude of the starting point, selected by methods of random sampling.

List of Observers (route number(s)) and Assistants: Sylvia Bosworth (71), David Bosworth; Elizabeth Brooks (22), Stephen Brooks; Lou Burton (72), Doris Burton; Christine Ferrand (11); Clarence Klingensmith (21, 31, 32, 52, 81, 82), Mark Klingensmith; Erma Larson (12), Jane Moore; Katherine Palmer (61, 62); Vivian Pitzrick (41, 51), Ruth Richardson; Larry Wilson (91, 92).

Table II. Relative Abundance and Relative Frequency of the More Abundant Species

	Total Count	Population Index ^a	Cumulated Total(%) ^b	Relative Stops(%) ^c	Frequency Routes(%) ^d
1. Red-w. Blackbird	1320	78	14.6	60.0	100
2. Robin	1138	67	27.2	74.8	100
3. Common Grackle	685	40	34.8	35.5	100
4. Starling	632	37	41.8	32.9	100
5. Song Sparrow	609	36	48.6	69.2	100
6. Common Crow	400	24	53.0	46.4	100
7. House Sparrow	387	23	57.3	17.2	94
8. Amer. Goldfinch	349	21	61.2	27.1	100
9. Chipping Sparrow	208	12	63.5	31.8	100
10. Barn Swallow	178	10	65.4	16.0	100
11. Field Sparrow	178	10	67.4	32.5	94
12. E. Meadowlark	177	10	69.4	22.4	100
13. Bobolink	163	10	71.2	15.8	100
14. Yellowthroat	158	9	72.9	28.2	94
15. Rufous-s. Towhee	139	8	74.5	25.2	94
16. House Wren	121	7	75.8	22.4	94
17. Catbird	113	7	77.1	22.8	100
18. Red-eyed Vireo	113	7	78.3	20.2	94
19. Bank Swallow	103	6	79.5	0.94	18
20. Eastern Phoebe	88	5	80.4	16.0	94
21. Savannah Sparrow	88	5	81.4	12.0	71
22. Rock Dove	85	5	82.4	2.82	41
23. Yellow Warbler	82	5	83.3	16.5	94
24. Blue Jay	81	5	84.2	14.4	100
25. Wood Thrush	78	5	85.0	14.6	88
26. Cedar Waxwing	77	5	85.9	8.71	83
27. Indigo Bunting	75	4	86.7	13.9	83
28. Eastern Kingbird	72	4	87.5	10.8	76
29. Yellow-sh. Flicker	69	4	88.3	14.1	83
30. Brown-h. Cowbird	64	4	89.0	10.4	76
31. Black-c. Chickadee	62	4	89.7	11.3	94
32. Killdeer	61	4	90.4	10.1	83

(a) The average number of individuals per route, i.e., the value in the first column divided by 17.

(b) The cumulated sums of the entries in the first column divided by 9019.

(c) The percentage of stops out of 425 at which the species was observed.

(d) The percentage of routes on which the species was recorded.

Table III. The Least Abundant Species

	Total Count	No. of Stops		Total Count	No. of Stops
Great Blue Heron	4	4	Purple Martin	30	2
Green Heron	13	10	White-br. Nuthatch	24	21
Mallard	5	3	Brown Creeper	2	2
Wood Duck	5	1	Brown Thrasher	39	34
Red-tailed Hawk	7	7	Hermit Thrush	6	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	2	Verry	28	20
Sparrow Hawk	6	5	Eastern Bluebird	16	12
Ruffed Grouse	2	2	Warbling Vireo	4	4
Bobwhite	1	1	Blue-winged Warbler	6	5
Ring-n. Pheasant	9	8	Nashville Warbler	2	2
American Woodcock	1	1	Magnolia Warbler	1	1
Upland Plover	1	1	Myrtle Warbler	1	1
Spotted Sandpiper	8	5	Black-thr. Green W.	12	10
Mourning Dove	58	48	Blackburnian Warbler	5	3
Great Horned Owl	1	1	Chestnut-s. Warbler	33	26
Black-billed Cuckoo	5	5	Ovenbird	18	18
Chimney Swift	32	15	Mourning Warbler	3	3
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	3	3	Canada Warbler	2	2
Belted Kingfisher	17	15	American Redstart	9	8
Pileated Woodpecker	3	3	Baltimore Oriole	44	33
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	3	3	Scarlet Tanager	35	31
Hairy Woodpecker	9	7	Cardinal	51	37
Downy Woodpecker	21	21	Rose-br. Grosbeak	23	21
G. Crested Flycatcher	18	17	Purple Finch	9	9
Traill's Flycatcher	10	8	Grasshopper Sparrow	6	6
Least Flycatcher	47	40	Henslow's Sparrow	13	10
E. Wood Pewee	40	38	Vesper Sparrow	25	22
Horned Lark	20	7	Slate-colored Junco	4	3
Tree Swallow	45	11	White-thr. Sparrow	4	1
Rough-w. Swallow	1	1	Swamp Sparrow	13	11
Cliff Swallow	1	1			

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Alfred University, Alfred, N.Y. 14802

OBSERVATIONS ON GREAT GULL ISLAND-SUMMER 1969

DAVID C. DUFFY

During the summer of 1969, a study was made of the birds visiting Great Gull Island, New York. Although observers were present from May 1 to September 14, the report deals with the period the author was on the island—June 6 to September 14.

Great Gull Island is seven miles northeast of Orient Point, Long Island, New York and ten miles south of the Connecticut shore. The distance over water is broken by Fisher's Island to the northeast and Plum Island to the southwest. The island consists of about 17 acres of bayberry and beach grass and is dominated by a deserted army fort. The most evident bird population on the island is the breeding colony of 6,000 Common and Roseate Terns. Seven other species were found nesting: Mallard, Spotted Sandpiper, Barn Swallow, Starling, Yellowthroat, Redwinged Blackbird and Song Sparrow. Because of intensive searches for tern nests it is unlikely that any other species nested, unknown to us.

The following is a list of the birds which visited the island between June 9 and July 13; for several reasons their appearance was regarded as noteworthy, either because they did not nest on the island, because the time of appearance was unusual according to John Bull (*Birds of the New York Area*, Harper and Row, 1964), or because they were unusual for a small island with the Great Gull habitat.

Almost all of these birds were netted and banded, and many of them were photographed. An early fall date for the Great Cormorant is also included.

Great Cormorant—September 6, immature and adult birds on dock pilings with immature and adult Double-Crested Cormorants. Bull lists the fall early extreme (specimen) as September 14.

King Eider—June 14, immature male, first seen and identified by Richard Plunkett; it was observed throughout the day. Out of eleven previous summer records from the New York area, three are from Great Gull Island.

Sharp-shinned Hawk—June 13, immature, stayed through June 16; July 2, bird perched on mist net pole.

Mourning Dove—June 20; July 12.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo—June 15–19; June 28.

Black-billed Cuckoo—June 24.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—June 29, female or immature.

Eastern Kingbird—June 14; July 12.

Great Crested Flycatcher—June 20.

Eastern Wood Peewee—June 23.

Blue Jay—Large numbers passed over the island throughout the summer on flight days, going both north and south. On July 3, almost 100

passed over during the afternoon in groups of three to five, all flying in a southerly direction. All 23 banded proved to be second year birds. Determining the number of Jays on the island at any one time was extremely difficult as they were mobbed continuously by the terns and were very secretive. Jays were found hiding under rocks and in the many decaying tunnels of the fort. Two birds collected by Dr. Kenneth Parkes were found to be not in breeding condition.

Black-Capped Chickadee—June 10.

Carolina Wren—July 12, possibly one of the Gardiner's Island breeding population.

Brown Thrasher—June 14.

Swainson's Thrush—June 12.

White-eyed Vireo—June 27, adult.

Red-eyed Vireo—June 20, adult.

Baltimore Oriole—June 15, second year male.

Scarlet Tanager—July 3, adult male in breeding plumage.

Summer Tanager—June 12, female, identified by Dr. Parkes. There is only one other June record from the New York area. This species breeds just south of New Jersey, yet it is a "rare but regular spring migrant" (Bull p. 411).

Cardinal—June 16, adult male, found dead June 21; June 23, immature male; June 27, adult male.

All the species noted are among those that should generally have stopped migratory movement and established territories or nesting sites at the time they were seen. Some of the birds—the Swainson's Thrush, first Kingbird and Brown Thrasher—could probably be late migrants. The Carolina Wren, Scarlet Tanager, and Mourning Dove are perhaps very early post-breeding dispersals. Nevertheless, the amount of "traffic" would seem to indicate that the spring migration continues far later than is generally believed and that the extent of the post-breeding dispersal is much greater. Also, the list would seem to indicate that the dispersal begins much earlier, in late June and early July. Maybe these birds and some of the other vagrants are birds that were not able to establish or maintain breeding territories or else had a hormone imbalance. Perhaps there is a large body of these non-breeding birds that has not been distinguished from the indigenous population.

Certainly further study of these aestival wanderings is in order, but it must be done where there can be no doubt that the birds are wanderers and not part of the local population.

My thanks to all who helped with the preparation of this paper and especially to Miss Helen Hays, Mrs. Mary LeCroy and her daughters, Lauren and Sara, to Dr. Kenneth Parkes, Miss Catharine Pessino and to John Bull.

251 West 89th Street, New York, N.Y.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 23RD ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.
WATERTOWN, N.Y.
SEPTEMBER 11-13, 1970**

The 23rd Annual Meeting of the FNYSSBC was held at the Holiday Inn at Watertown, N.Y. with the North Country Bird Club as host. The Council Meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m., Sept. 12, by Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr., president, and a quorum was declared with 21 clubs represented by delegates.

A motion made by Dr. Neil Moon and seconded by Harold Mitchell to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous council meeting as they had been published in the *Kingbird* was passed unanimously.

The treasurer's report, prepared by Edward H. Somers for the calendar year 1969, was presented by James P. Karp, present treasurer, as follows:

*Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc.
Treasurer's Report as of 12-31-69
and for the then ended year*

Cash on Hand 12-31-68			
Checking Account	\$2,841.14		
Savings Account	4,990.00		
Accrued Interest	243.59		
			<u>\$8,074.73</u>
Net Income for 1969			1,040.04
Cash on Hand 12-31-69			
Checking Account	3,716.77		
Savings Account	4,990.00		
Accrued Interest	255.00		
			<u>8,961.77</u>
Income, 1969			
Dues, Individual			
Renewal	2,333.50		
New	297.00		
Arrears and Advance	10.00		
Dues, Club	674.10		
Miscellaneous (Including check closing out			
Rochester Account, from D. Cameron)	2,964.63		
Interest on Savings Account (accrued)	255.00		
			<u>6,534.23</u>
Expenses, 1969			
Membership Maintenance	33.33		
Kingbird	2,129.29		
Stationary & Postage	102.73		
Conservation	198.29		
Annual Meeting	65.42		
Hawk Program	20.00		
Miscellaneous	30.00		
Affiliated Societies (Dues)	50.00		
			<u>2,609.06</u>

Mr. Karp reported that estimated sources of income and estimated expenses for 1971 are:

Income		Expenses	
Individual member dues	\$2500	Kingbird	\$2750
Member club dues	800	Conservation	300
Interest on savings	250	Annual meeting	150
	<u>\$3550</u>	Membership maintenance	100
		Organization affiliation	50
		Miscellaneous	<u>200</u>
			\$550

At present the Savings Account balance is \$5,052.38, the checking account \$3,700.43 and the Hawk Fund \$970.86 for a total of \$9,731.67.

Dr. Frederick Dittrich questioned the status of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society, stating he understood they had decided to sever connections with the FNYSCB. Mr. Karp reported that only 20 clubs had paid their dues, possibly due to the lateness of the bills. Mr. Robert Wolk asked about the status of the Long Island Herpetological Society which is not on the mailing list. The status of these will be investigated.

Mr. Joseph W. Taylor, editor of the *Kingbird*, reported that the *Kingbird* was late because the reports were late. He expressed his concern over the time necessary for editing the regional reports and that the publication is uninteresting as it is largely statistics. He suggested three alternatives: 1) continue the *Kingbird* as is, 2) reduce regional reports to 6 or 9 pages, publishing only the highlights and publishing the full regional reports annually, or 3) secure an additional editor to edit the regional reports. Mr. Taylor stated that he personally would like to see the regional reports cut down, but that the regional editors disagreed. Mrs. Sally Hoyt Spofford then stated she felt the material in the *Kingbird* to be of enormous value for present and future workers on any bird or region. She felt this was one of the best of the state journals scientifically and filled a need for a place of reference. She then made the motion that, with a full vote of support for the present editor, the *Kingbird* be continued in its present form, but that an additional editor be chosen for the regional reports. This was seconded by Mr. Mitchell, and after some discussion was carried. Dr. Reilly urged the delegates to discuss the problem with their member clubs and to solicit articles for the *Kingbird*. Mr. Stanley Quickmire of the Audubon Society suggested a questionnaire taking a survey as to the members' interest in the publication. He will submit a form for this.

The John Burroughs Natural History Society applied for readmission to the FNYSCB and was accepted.

Dr. Reilly reported that Mr. Robert Arbib has been appointed chairman of the Publications and Research Committee.

Dr. Reilly read a report from Mr. John Bull on the State Bird Book stating that 2/3 of the work had been completed on the species write-ups and some introductions have been finished; the color plates have begun to come in; and he hoped that the manuscript would be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Mitchell announced that the paintings for the color plates would be on display at the A.O.U. meeting in Buffalo in Oct. Dr. Reilly urged that anyone having unanswered letters for Mr. Bull reply promptly in order to facilitate prompt publication.

Mrs. Alice Ulrich, chairman of the Bulletin Exchange Committee, reported on the survey she had made of member clubs in order to bring information up to date. She received 23 replies to her questionnaire which asked if clubs had a magazine, if they were willing to exchange this publication with other clubs, and to whom the exchange should be sent. 14 clubs made no reply. She will compile the results of the survey

for publication in the *Kingbird*. She stressed that it is up to individual clubs to make their own contacts for the exchange. Mr. Richard Sloss suggested that delegates get the names of clubs which have not answered and take the information back with them for possible action.

Mrs. Spofford, chairman of the Bibliography Committee, explained that the work of the committee was to make an annual listing in the *Kingbird* of any publication dealing with N.Y.S. ornithology, that the 1968 list has been sent to the editor of the *Kingbird* and 1969 was being compiled. She asked that copies of club bulletins be sent to her at the Laboratory of Ornithology.

Mr. Sloss, chairman of the By-laws Committee, had no report for that committee, but did for the Committee on the Organization of the Federation, of which he is also chairman. He reminded the council of the proposal made in 1969 that three regional vice-presidents be chosen to assist the president. He stated his feelings that these should not be called vice-presidents and should not be officers since this would necessitate a change in the By-laws. He, therefore, made the motion that the FNYSSBC authorize the President to appoint three regional liaison representatives to act as liaison between the Federation and member clubs of the particular region, and he further moved that the regional representatives be chosen by the member clubs of the region. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mitchell. After some discussion and an amending motion by Mr. Sloss to change the word from "region" to "area," the motion was carried. Mr. Sloss also suggested that there be one meeting a year for each area approximately in the middle of the year and that these meetings be attended by the officers. Dr. Moon moved and Mr. Mitchell seconded that the areas previously suggested by Dr. Peakall be used and that the president appoint the representatives for this year. The area boundaries were defined as: Western—the eastern edge of Wayne, Cayuga and Chemung Counties, Eastern—the southern edge of Delaware, Greene and Columbia Counties, and Southern—the remaining counties of the state. The motion was carried.

Mr. Sloss presented a request by the Buffalo Audubon Society that a maximum limit for dues paid by a member club be set at \$100. Mr. Mitchell commented on the request stating that Buffalo Audubon is planning on setting up a Beaver Meadow Nature Center for which it needs funds, that the club has a very large membership which makes it difficult to determine the exact membership at any given time, and that it would help the club in setting up a budget if there were a set fee. After discussion it was moved by Mr. Kenneth Niven and seconded by Mr. Steven Dempsey that the By-laws be changed to set a maximum figure of \$100 for a member club's fee. The motion was carried. The president reminded the delegates that changing the By-laws is a lengthy process requiring member clubs to be polled on the change with the vote being taken at the next annual meeting. Member clubs will be notified thirty days prior to the annual meeting. He urged delegates to take this change back to their clubs with a positive recommendation.

Mr. Sloss also brought up the question of weighted voting. At the present time there is a maximum of three delegates which means that large and small clubs have the same voting powers. He felt the FNYSSBC should consider the advisability of changing the By-laws to give greater weight to larger clubs. He then moved that the Federation amend the By-laws to provide for representation from member clubs on the basis of one vote per 100 members or major portion thereof up to a maximum of 6 delegates. The motion, which was seconded by Mr. Wolk, was defeated by a show of hands, 20 against, and 13 for. Mr. Sloss then moved with Mr. Wolk seconding that the Federation amend the By-laws to increase the representation of member clubs having a membership of 500 by one additional vote, member clubs having a membership of 700 by 2 additional votes, and clubs having a membership of 900 by 3 additional votes, with a maximum of 6 votes. This motion was carried. Mr. Sloss then moved to amend the By-laws to state that dues paying members mean

regular dues paying members and not special memberships. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion which was carried. Dr. Moon asked if the Federation had considered having family memberships. He was instructed to look into changing the membership categories and to report next year.

Mr. Karp reminded the Council that bills have been received from National Audubon and the New York State Conservation Council, affiliation with which was voted last year for one year. Mr. Dempsey then moved with Dr. Moon seconding that the Federation approve paying these bills. The motion carried. Mr. Walton Sabin moved and it was seconded that the Federation approve these affiliations on a continuing basis. The motion carried.

Dr. Reilly reported that Herb Saltford who is in charge of the Hawk Nesting program has had only two claims. Mr. Saltford sent a letter on June 10 to member clubs reminding them of the program. Mr. Mitchell stated he felt that was too late in the year. The question of expanding the program to include other raptors was brought up. While no decision was reached, it was decided to study the possible expansion.

Dr. Reilly read the report from the Nature Conservancy on the El Dorado Beach project. \$41,136.00 has been taken in and \$22,642.44 disbursed, leaving \$18,494.37 on hand, and a total of \$19,530.63 to be raised to pay off the note to the owner which carried 6% interest. Dr. Reilly suggested the need for an additional drive to raise funds. Mr. Quickmire offered the use of Audubon mailing labels if Nature Conservancy would pay for pamphlets and the Federation pay for postage. Mrs. Janet Greenfield moved and Mrs. Ruth Rubenstein seconded that the Federation accept Mr. Quickmire's offer subject to the recommendations of a committee to be appointed, but not using Federation funds for the postage. Dr. Reilly suggested the Federation could ask members to make donations. Dr. Reilly appointed the following committee to consider Mr. Quickmire's offer and to decide on ways to fund it: Mrs. Ivy Benedykt, Mrs. Helen Tullar of North Country Bird Club, Mrs. Laura W. Moon, Mr. Harold Mitchell and Mrs. Sally Spofford. The motion carried.

Dr. Dittrich, Circulation Manager of the *Kingbird*, reported some difficulties in estimating numbers to be printed. At the present time a new member receives the back issues for the year in which he joins which means that the January copies run out. He recommended that a person joining get the current issues, with his subscription stopping with the anniversary issue if he should drop his membership. Mrs. Spofford pointed out there are many problems in his suggestion, but suggested that 100 additional copies be ordered for the January issue. The matter will be discussed by the officers.

The proposed slate of officers was presented by Mrs. Ruth Williams, chairman of the Nominating Committee. There being no nominations from the floor, Mr. Sabin moved that the nominations be closed and the following officers were unanimously elected:

President—Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr.
Vice-president—Mrs. Alice Ulrich
Recording Secretary—Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin
Corresponding Secretary—Miss Elizabeth Feldhusen
Treasurer—Mr. James P. Karp

Mrs. Williams, chairman also of the Membership Committee, reported that 52 new members have applied for membership. They were accepted.

Mr. Kenneth Niven, chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the budget as proposed for 1971 had been reported by the treasurer with a projected income of \$3550. Dr. Moon moved and Mr. Sabin seconded that we accept the proposed budget. The motion carried.

Dr. Gerhard Leubner, chairman of the Conservation Committee, presented the following resolutions prepared by that committee:

1. Resolved that the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., urges establishment of a Gateway National Recreation Area in the New York-New Jersey region which would include Jamaica Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, a vital wintering and breeding area for birds (particularly waterfowl) on the Atlantic Flyway and an important area for their enjoyment by thousands of people every year. Resolved that this be communicated to Mayor John Lindsay, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel and Jamaica Bay for the People.

2. Resolved: The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., expresses its concern for the partial efforts to ban DDT and other long-lived chlorinated hydrocarbons; the New York State Law going into effect Oct. 1 giving the State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets and or/the Department of Environmental Conservation authority to refuse a permit for any of certain pesticides "if there is a reasonably less dangerous alternative available," and the practice of the United States Department of Agriculture issuing cancellation orders instead of suspensions thus allowing appeals by manufacturers resulting in dragging out implementation of a ban:

Therefore, the Federation urges the Department of Environmental Conservation to institute a ban of DDT with the only exception being "for control of vectors in epidemics in human health:"

That the long-lived or accumulative pesticides be similarly banned:

That severe restrictions be established for all high toxicity pesticides:

That these regulations be made law by passage of a stronger pesticide bill in the 1971 legislature:

That the Congress pass legislation banning the manufacture, sale, and the use of the long-lived, persistent pesticides except for threat of an epidemic affecting the health of humans.

Resolved that this be communicated to the Honorable Henry Diamond, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, Senators Charles Goodell and Jacob Javits, Senatorial candidates Richard Ottinger and James Buckley.

3. Resolved: The FNYSCB signals an Environment Alert following certain recommendations of the Public Land Law Review Commission, June 23, 1970, headed by Representative Wayne N. Aspinall (D-Colo.) as chairman:

And the Federation calls on its member organizations and individuals to carefully watch for the surfacing of these proposals in Congress so that the opposition of our New York State Senators and Representatives can be urged especially against such concepts as:

- a. "There should be a statutory requirement that those public lands that are highly productive for timber be classified for commercial timber production as the dominant use."
- b. "Public land forage policies should be flexible, designed to attain maximum economic efficiency in the production and use of forage from the public land and to support regional economic growth."
- c. "An immediate effort should be undertaken to identify and protect these unique areas of national significance that exist on public lands," which in itself is good, but which is elusive because ordinary acreages of forests and other natural environment are important for recreation and a chance for persons to renew themselves:

The Federation urges, of course, further study to remove any measures potentially and unnecessarily threatening or damaging to the environment and also to retrieve any recommendations that can be useful and even forward looking in light of our growing dependence on the natural environment as it exists for a quality existence.

Resolved that this be communicated to Clubs, United States Senators and Representatives.

4. Resolved: The FNYSSBC, Inc., expresses its concern about the formation of a political organization like the Conservation Party (the litigation future of which at this point is uncertain) or any other party exclusively seeking the votes of conservation- or environment-minded persons because:

- a. This tends to relegate conservation or environment into a singular issue at a time when it might well be involved in other problems on which conservationists or environmentalists might wish to exert their voting power:
- b. It could discriminate against a candidate deserving of conservationists' or environmentalists' consideration, but who, for perhaps some technical reason like not obtaining a sufficient number of signatures, could fail to receive such party designation:
- c. There is a danger that a candidate not meriting support by conservationists or environmentalists because of his or her record in this regard might obtain such designation anyway:
- d. In summary, the Federation believes each candidate should be evaluated individually for his achievements in preserving and protecting our environment and natural resources:

However, passage of this resolution should not be construed as reflecting either positively or negatively on any candidate who might have received, sought, been refused or otherwise failed to receive designation by the current Conservation Party.

Resolved that this be communicated to the chief officer or representative of the Conservation Party.

5. Resolved: The FNYSSBC, Inc., urges passage by Congress of HR 12435 by Rep. Henry S. Reuss (Wisc.) amending the Federal Water Pollution Act to protect navigable waters of the United States from certain pollution by requiring that synthetic petroleum based detergents manufactured in the United States or imported into the United States lack phosphorous:

Also, the Federation urges the introduction and passage by the New York State Legislature of a similar measure because of the damage ecologically being done by phosphates, (much of which are found in laundry detergents) to our Great Lakes and marine waters around Long Island, to name a few.

Resolved that this be communicated to Mr. Reuss, N.Y. State Senators and Representatives.

6. Resolved: The FNYSSBC, Inc., urges passage of S. 3234 by Sen. Gaylord Nelson (Wisc.) prohibiting the shooting of any bird, animal, fish, etc., from an aircraft while over land owned or reserved to the United States.

7. Resolved: The FNYSSBC, Inc., looks with enthusiastic favor on the concept involved in HR 15737 by Representative Morris K. Udall (Ariz.) which declares that it is the policy of Congress to recognize that the wolf, coyote, mountain lion, lynx, bobcat, bear and other predators "are among the wildlife resources of interest and value to the people of the United States:"

But the Federation urges that this be construed to include predator birds, reptiles like the alligator, etc.:

The Federation further subscribes to the provision of the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to engage in the conservation of predatory animals, but prohibiting the Secretary or any other agent or agency of the Federal government from participating in or assisting in the killing or control of predatory animals:

We further urge that such legislation be passed by the New York State Legislature which would, we would hope, have the effect of eliminating any further bounties such as those in some counties on the lynx.

8. Resolved: The FNYSSBC, Inc., recommends that legislation be proposed to eliminate the sections of the New York State Fish and Game Law which allow the killing of the State-protected hawks and owls without a permit and also to eliminate the use of pole traps in cases where permits may be granted.

Mr. Steven Dempsey moved acceptance of the resolutions which was done unanimously.

The Nominating Committee for 1971 was elected as follows, without opposition: Maxwell Wheat, Chairman, Harold Mitchell and Mrs. Janet Greenfield.

The Auditing Committee, consisting of Lillian Stoner and Dorothy McIlroy, was elected without opposition.

Mr. Mitchell announced the A.O.U. meeting in Buffalo Oct. 5-9 and urged members to attend.

The resolution thanking the host club for its hospitality was read by Mrs. Tullar.

Dr. Reilly announced that the Federation has been invited by the John Burroughs Natural History Society to have the 1971 Annual Meeting at Lake Mohonk. No date has been set.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. on the motion of Walton Sabin.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Sunderlin

Any club which was not represented at the Council Meeting may obtain a copy of the 1971 roster of officers, committee members and member clubs, by writing the secretary, Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin, 505 Bay Rd., Webster, N.Y. 14580.

THE PAPER SESSION

Annual Meeting — September 12, 1970

The following technical papers were presented on Saturday afternoon:

1. Pollution Dr. John A. Gustafson, SUNY, Cortland, N.Y.
2. Blue Herons on Ironsides Island
Dr. George R. Maxwell II, Director: Rice Creek Biostation, SUNY, Oswego, N.Y.
James McAllister, Oswego, N.Y. — James Parker, Redwood, N.Y.
3. Bird Populations of Bermuda
..... Dr. Kenneth Crowell, St. Lawrence University, Canton, N.Y.
4. Behavior of Rock Ptarmigan
..... Dr. S. D. MacDonald, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Canada
5. Changing Bird Populations in Upstate New York
..... John Belknap, Gouverneur, N.Y.

JOHN J. ELLIOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE — 1970

At the Council Meeting on September 12, Dr. Edgar M. Reilly, Jr. announced that the John J. Elliott Memorial Prize for 1970 had been awarded to William Post and Frank Enders for their article "Reappearance of the Black Rail on Long Island" published in the October, 1969 *Kingbird*. This prize is awarded annually to "that author of a paper published during the preceding year, in the *Kingbird*, deemed the most worthy by a panel of judges."

1971 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1971 annual meeting of the Federation of N.Y. State Bird Clubs will be held June 4-6, 1971, at the Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz, New York, with the John Burroughs Natural History Society, Inc., acting as hosts.

The Mohonk Mountain House is situated on 7,500 acres of forests, lakes, streams and open fields. A great variety of habitat is available just outside your window, and you can bird from your balcony. However, field trips will, of course, be arranged, including one for the hardy who might wish to add the Bicknell's Thrush to their life list. This would require a strenuous 3-mile climb to the top of Slide Mountain, in the Catskills.

It is regretted that the date must conflict with that of the Allegany Pilgrimage, but spring weekends, especially during the mountain laurel season, are in great demand at the Mountain House. Automobiles are allowed to the door, but no further, and the 85 miles of carriage roads and trails are sacred to foot and horse traffic, with the exception of an occasional work truck. Swimming will be fine at that time, and all sports are available, for the jaded companions of avid birders.

Further details will be included in the next issue of the *Kingbird*.

ADDENDUM TO HAWK OWL RECORDS

Dr. K. C. Parkes has pointed out to me an additional record of the Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*) to those listed in "The Kingbird" (Vol. 19 p. 187, 1969). This record, unrecorded in "The Kingbird" and "Audubon Field Notes," refers to one captured alive at Slide Mountain in the Catskills in mid-January 1953. It died in mid-April; photographs and the decayed body were identified by Dr. Parkes and the record published in the "Annals of the Carnegie Museum," Vol. 33, p. 156-7, 1964.

D. B. Peakall

FIELD NOTES

First Recorded Nesting of the Cattle Egret in New York State. The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) has occurred irregularly on Long Island since the first observation of an individual in East Moriches in the spring of 1954. To my knowledge, however, no nesting record either for Long Island or any other area in the State has been reported. I therefore wish to report the first observed nesting.

Gardiner's Island, Suffolk County, is a privately owned, undisturbed island, some 8 miles long, lying off the eastern end of Long Island. Near its northern end a vigorous colony of Black-crowned Night Herons and Snowy Egrets has existed for many years. For the past several years, several pairs of Little Blue Herons have also nested within this heronry. This year (1970) while engaged with several other ornithologists in our annual study of the reproductive success of the Osprey colony on the Island, we observed a Cattle Egret at a nest in the heart of the heronry on June 7. The nest was in a dense bank of catbrier (smilax). Upon returning to the Island on July 2-7 to band fledgling Ospreys, I observed two young Cattle Egrets among

the many young Snowy Egrets and Night Herons in the colony. Although not yet able to fly, they had left the nest and were climbing about in the dense vegetation. At least four young Glossy Ibis and a Common Egret, at its nest containing three eggs, were also observed in the heronry on this latter occasion.

Dennis Puleston, Brookhaven, N.Y.

Brant on Adirondack Pond: On 30 May, 1970, my husband and I stopped at the parking area at Chapel Pond, a small Adirondack Lake, in Essex County. We immediately noticed two Brant (*Branta bernicla*) on the pond. The smaller and duller of the two, presumably a female, appeared a little ruffled and one wing was drooping slightly. We studied the birds for some time with a Bausch & Lomb zoomscope as well as with our 8 × 30 Zeiss Dialyt binoculars, and then took a number of 35 mm pictures with 300 and 400 mm lenses. The birds were gone when we next visited Chapel Pond, two weeks later, and we have heard no other reports of them, so presumably they could fly, and left.

While this seemed to us a rather late date for Brant, and an unusual location, there are several other comparable spring records in the literature. Greenleaf Chase saw a Brant at Piseco near the end of May in 1954, and Margaret Rusk found one on the Sacandaga River east of Speculator on 17 June, 1968. Other late inland reports include sightings of two at Oswego Harbor on Lake Ontario until 9 June in 1955.

Sally Hoyt Spofford, Aviana, Etna, New York 13062

Purple Gallinule near Binghamton: banded. On May 16, 1970, a neighbor of mine in Vestal, one mile southwest of the city of Binghamton, captured an apparently exhausted bird which we identified as a Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*). He took it to a veterinarian who found no apparent ailment, although the bird limped slightly. He was able to induce it to take bird seed, such as is purchased in bags at supermarkets. I banded the bird and asked to be kept informed of its condition.

On June 6th the bird seemed fully recovered and was taken to a small protected swamp (approximately 15 acres) a half mile from the place where it was first found. I noted that the bird seemed very alert and entirely healthy. However, I saw that the frontal plate which had been bluish in color when I had first seen the bird was now almost white. Otherwise the bird's coloring was brilliant. After release, it walked sedately across a small patch of grass toward the swamp pond, then flew across the water to a shrub on the far side and disappeared from view. Twice in the next week I looked for it with no luck. Dense alders mixed with marsh ferns and other vegetation grow around three-quarters of the edge of the swamp so it would be very easy for such a bird to keep out of sight.

The Reilly-Parkes Annotated Checklist (1959) indicates that most state records of the Purple Gallinule have been on Long Island. A specimen taken October 1, 1931 in the Cayuga Lake Basin was in the collection of the late Foster Parker, and there is a Peekskill record. Otherwise, the *Kingbird* gives only the following more recent upstate records: one in the Delaware-Hudson area in 1959, and one in Wyoming County in the spring of 1963.

Thus the Binghamton bird is a first for the Southern Tier, and one of very few upstate records, apparently the first one banded in this area.

Harriet Marsi, Friendsville Stage, Binghamton, N.Y. 13903

Northern Phalarope in Dutchess County: On the evening of August 17, 1970, Vivian Parkhurst and I were checking a flock of shorebirds in a small pond with many mud flats, located behind Buttermilk Pond on Route 82, about one and a half miles south of the village of Pine Plains.

We noted many Lesser Yellowlegs, one Dowitcher and several Least Sandpipers,

and while looking at them through a 20× telescope, a very white bird appeared from behind the grass along the edge of the pond. We noticed the fast movements as it fed. The bill was very slender, head narrow with a dark eye stripe. The black stripe of the neck seemed to spread out over the head. Its beak was black and the back was very dark with a lighter V-shaped marking.

Peterson's Field Guide verified our identification of the bird as a Northern Phalarope; the color and length of the bill were the deciding factors. For further verification we checked A. C. Bent's *Life Histories of Shore Birds*.

This is the only Dutchess County record since September 4, 1924. That earlier record was of a bird on a pond near Amenia, New York (*The Birds of Dutchess County* by Ludlow Griscom.) The county also has one record of a Wilson's Phalarope on May 15, 1965 near Lagrangeville. The 1970 Northern Phalarope was seen by a number of club members and photographed by several.

Thelma Haight, Stanfordville, New York 13581.

Unusual Plumage of a Scarlet Tanager: On the morning of June 17, 1970, several members of the Naturalists Club of Broome County observed a male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) in the top of a dead tree about 200 feet away. At first glance the bird suggested an oriole, except that the head, throat and back were entirely orange. The bird was singing a typical tanager song. The group observed the bird through binoculars for perhaps five minutes before it flew into the dead branches in the top of another smaller tree. We approached to within 100 feet and noted that there was a rather abrupt change from the orange throat to a rather dirty-white belly, easily observed even though the sky was somewhat overcast. The bird remained in the same tree for about five more minutes, singing almost continuously and occasionally preening himself, during which operation there appeared to be a suggestion of white wing-bars, but at other times the wings appeared to be solid black.

Neither the Peterson field guide nor Pearson (*Birds of America*) mention the orange plumage. Robbins et al (*Birds of North America*) says: "first year males occasionally are orange instead of red," although the bird in the corresponding illustration is much redder than the observed bird. Bent (*Life Histories of North American Blackbirds, Orioles, Tanagers and Allies*) quotes Dwight, who describes the juvenal plumage as "below, dull white, sulphur yellow on the abdomen," and the first nuptial plumage as "sometimes pale (vermilion) or mixed with orange." Bent himself says, "I have seen young males in this first nuptial plumage in which the body color is decidedly yellowish, varying from "cadmium orange" to "cadmium yellow" or "light cadmium," often more tinged with orange above and yellower below." Forbush (*Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*) says of young males in their first breeding plumage, "Some have orange or orange-yellow in place of scarlet." While all of these writers mention various aspects of the observed bird, none mention the combination of orange upper parts with the grayish-white underparts.

Observers: Shirley Elliott, Elva Hawken, Donna Kraus, Florence Linaberry, Harriet Marsi, Marion Vanderlip, Elizabeth Washburn.

Mrs. Newell R. Washburn, 2008 Galaxy Drive, Vestal, N.Y. 13850

Ed. Note: This seems to be a variation of the occasionally-seen increase in yellow pigment in Tanagers: xanthochroism. There is a fine specimen of one which is uniform orange-yellow in color, with black wings, on display in the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Lark Bunting in Dutchess County: While eating dinner on May 12th, 1970 at our home in Stissing, New York on Route 82, we were discussing a strange bird our uncle had seen at the feeder in the afternoon. He was just describing it when a male Lark Bunting appeared at our feeder. He was in beautiful spring plumage, all black with large white wing patches, yellow legs, and his head seeming rather bluish.

I had seen many along the roads in the West last summer and could identify him immediately.

He remained all that day and the next, but was last seen the evening of May 13th. He fed constantly, either on the window feeder or at the edge of a juniper near the window. Redwings, Grackles and Cowbirds were also present, and when they frightened the Bunting, he would disappear under the juniper with crown feathers uplifted, to reappear almost at once and go back to feeding.

This appears to be the first verified record of a Lark Bunting in Dutchess County. It was seen by many members of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club during its brief visit.

Paul and Thelma Haight, Stanfordville, New York 13581.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Effective with the January, 1971, issue of *The Kingbird* a change in policy with regard to the publication of Regional Reports will be put into effect. New, and later, deadlines for the receipt of the Reports will be established, and these new deadlines will *not* be extended. Reports received after these deadlines will *not* be published in later issues.

I therefore urge all members to see to it that information goes to Regional Editors promptly and that Regional Editors send in their reports on time.

J. W. T.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

FRITZ SCHEIDER

The most obvious observation about the summer's birding is about observing—a lot of it was done. Counts in many areas range from backyard tabulations to singing male counts to surveys of colonial nesting species (Region 10) to the highly specific and detailed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys. The fund of data springing from the last is utilized in 50% of the regional reports at hand and demonstrates how rapidly and effectively such data can be accrued if a good system is devised and applied.

In waterbirds there is growing evidence of many Canada Goose colonies expanding in most major marsh areas of the state. Would that rising populations in hawks could be similarly reported but this is not the case—Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks among the Accipiters and Red-shouldered Hawk in the Buteos are virtually gone throughout the non-montane sectors of upstate New York. Marsh Hawks similarly are gone with most sectors reporting singles only—only Region 6 reports the species with regularity. Osprey production seemed improved on Gardiner's Island (Region 10) but down on the rest of Long Island where nest disturbance will undoubtedly ensue and increase, even if pesticides are brought under control.

Most striking was the contrast in cuckoos—reported in numbers from downstate areas (Region 9) but extraordinarily scarce in Regions 2, 3, and 5 upstate. Even more striking—and disturbing—is what appears to be a statewide decline in Whip-poor-wills despite some few more noted in Region 5. This species should be checked for next summer and it might be advisable to do “night runs” for counting of same. Paralleling the drop in Whip-poor-wills is a sharp drop in Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in central and western New York (Region 3 and 5), a situation definitely not so in the Tug Hill Plateau and the Adirondacks.

Tree Swallows were remarkably low in Regions 3 and 5 and may be similarly so in the Adirondacks (report not in as of this writing). Quite in contrast both Bank and Barn Swallows have done quite well (Regions 3, 5, & 9). Bluebirds across the state seemed very scarce and the only tallies of note involved specific bluebird nesting box projects.

Cedar Waxwings were noted as being up on both Region 2 and 5, and various Adirondacks counts suggest this may be true in that sector also.

Golden-winged Warbler was proven to breed near Gouverneur (Region 6) confirming the recently discovered expansion of 1969 in Region 5. Redstarts appear down sharply on breeding bird surveys in both Region 3 and 5, but Region 2 indicated some evidence of recovery from previous low numbers there.

Rarities for the season include the first New York state record of breeding Cattle Egret (Region 10), a Goshawk nesting in Dutchess Co. (Region 9), an out-of-season Sabine's Gull (Region 10), a Chuck-will's-widow (Region 10), a Kentucky Warbler (Region 3), and evidence of breeding House Finch in Elmira (Region 3) and summering House Finch in Syracuse (Region 5).

It is regretted that reports from Regions 1, 4, 7, and 8 were not available for this summary.

417 South Main Street, North Syracuse, New York 13212

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

ROBERT A. SUNDELL

Report for period April 1–May 31.

The weather for the first twenty-five days of April was about normal with average temperatures but the last five days brought unseasonal heat and averaged eighteen degrees above normal. Precipitation was approximately one half inch below the long-term average. The ice on Chautauqua Lake did not break up until mid-April, two to three weeks later than usual. May was a pleasant month with both temperature and precipitation somewhat below average.

Observations and trends noted were: (1) the best flight of loons (both species) in at least fifteen years, (2) a slight improvement in the showing of the herons and related forms, (3) average or below average numbers of nearly all species of

waterfowl except for a record breaking total of Canada Geese, (4) a disappointing hawk flight with no outstanding concentrations seen, (5) the best variety of shorebirds (twenty two species) ever observed in Region 1 during the spring, mostly at localities away from the shoreline of Lakes Erie and Ontario, (6) a deluge of insectivorous migrants during late April and early May in response to the summer-like temperatures, (7) one of the best displays of parulids in both quantity and quality for the past thirty years including a record twenty species in April and a record or near-record list for May of thirty-four species and one hybrid, (8) a relatively modest showing of the Starling-blackbird hoards, (9) excellent counts of Scarlet Tanager and several species of grosbeaks, (10) numerous remnants of the superb flight of winter finches during the past winter, (11) fair to poor numbers of most of the sparrows, (12) single records of Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting, species often unrecorded after March.

The most interesting rarity was an adult male Painted Bunting photographed at a feeder to provide the first documented record for western New York State. The two Varied Thrushes, new for the region this past winter, were last observed during the first week in April. Other rare birds recorded were Eared Grebe, Little Blue Heron, Mute Swan, Golden Eagle, Wilson's Phalarope, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Boreal Chickadee, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler (away from regular breeding station at Oak Orchard), Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Abbreviations: AC—April Bird Count; arr—arrival; Bflo—Buffalo; BOS—Buffalo Ornithological Society; Catt—Cattaraugus; Chaut—Chautauqua; Co—County; imm—immature; INWR—Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; L—Lake; max—maximum; MC—May Bird Count; mob—many observers; Nia—Niagara; Ont—Ontario; OO—Oak Orchard.

Contributors: RFA—Robert F. Andrie; NB—Nina Bates; CB—Clarence Beal; PB—Paul Benham; TLB—Thomas L. Bourne; RB—Richard Brownstein; LB—Lois Buck; LDB—Lou and Doris Burton; DC—Douglas Carlson; AC—Arthur Clark; DCs—D. Clarks; LMC—Link and Marian Crone; FE—Flora Elderkin; AF—Arthur Freitag; WHK—Walter and Harriette Klabunde; WAM—Willard and Alice McKale; HDM—Harold D. Mitchell; CMN—Charles and Martha Neel; ECP—Elizabeth C. Pillsbury; FMR—Frances M. Rew; A (D) R—Archie and Doris Richardson; LR—Lynn Rochster; AS—Arthur Schaffner; RAS—Robert A. Sundell; OS—Ora Swanson; JT—Joseph Thill.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 42 Apr 25 over Allegany Road, Chaut Co (mob); 42 May 17 BOSMC. Red-throated Loon: possibly a rare but *regular* spring migrant on Red House L, Allegany State Park and the Allegheny Reservoir—1 Apr 12 Allegheny Reservoir (RAS), 2 Apr 17 (FE), 6 May 17 (RAS, David Campbell) all same locality; 1 mid-Apr Red House L (FMR). Horned Grebe: 214 Apr 12 BOSAC. EARED GREBE: adult in breeding plumage Apr 9 Prendergast Point, Chaut L (John Rappole). Double-crested Cormorant: 1 May 28 Prendergast Point, Chaut L (RAS). LITTLE BLUE HERON: one in changing plumage May 3 Bear L outlet, Stockton (FMR, NB, LB). Common Egret: excellent spring flight—5 individuals at scattered localities (mob). Black-crowned Night Heron: uncommon or rare except on islands in Nia River—1 Apr 16—19 Greenhurst, Chaut L (mob); 1 Apr 30 INWR (AF).

MUTE SWAN: bird seen during winter returned May 23—31 Dunkirk Harbor (DC, RAS). Whistling Swan: poor flight—max 103 Apr 12 BOSAC; last 1 May 30 Allegheny Reservoir (LMC). Canada Goose: max 103, 467 Apr 12 BOSAC mostly in 00 area—largest number ever recorded. Snow Goose: 7 Apr 12 OO area BOSAC. Blue Goose: 5 Apr 12 OO area BOSAC; late 1 May 17 Hamburg BOSMC. Counts of most species of waterfowl about average or below including no scoters except a few White-winged.

HAWKS—OWLS: The spring hawk flight was most disappointing with no large concentrations. Goshawk: singles Apr 11 Town of Birdsall (LDB), Apr 26 Shadigee (FMR, LB); pair at nest Apr and May Alma (LDB, Ives). Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 20 Apr 26 over Portland (RFA, JT). Cooper's Hawk: surprisingly high counts—11 Apr 12 BOSAC; 13 May 17 BOSMC. Red-tailed Hawk: 263 Apr 12 BOSAC—highest previous Apr count total 127 but many of these in nearby Ont and also probably due to unusually large number of observers (246). Broad-winged Hawk: max counts—70 Apr 25 Allegany Road, Hanover Township (FE et al); 111 Apr 26 between Westfield and Portland (RFA, JT). Rough-legged Hawk: good scattering of individuals throughout region including several Southern Tier localities where usually rare (see also Dec—Mar report)—max 15 Apr 12 BOSAC; singles Apr 3, 8 James Road, South Stockton (FMR, Ulrich; DC); May 3 over Water Valley (TLB); 2 May 17 Bolivar area BOSMC. *GOLDEN EAGLE*: 1 Apr 12 OO area BOSAC. Bald Eagle: imm Apr 5 Riverside Marsh (AR); adult May 10 over Town of Evans (RFA, Hauser); imm May 29 Tonawanda Game Management Area (Morse); imm May 29, 30 Quaker Bridge, Allegheny Reservoir (LMC). Osprey: excellent spring flight—max 11 Apr 12 BOSAC; 4 Apr 25 Onoville (OS et al); 1 May 30 INWR (Morse). Peregrine Falcon: 1 May 8 INWR (Morse, Odell). Pigeon Hawk: 1 Apr 25 Langford (TLB).

Rails were generally scarce and late with the first Virginia May 10 Oak Orchard Game Management Area and the first Sora 2 May 8 INWR (Morse). Although there were only average or low counts for even the common species, the variety of shorebirds (22 species) was the greatest ever reported for Region 1, mostly away from the shoreline of L Erie and L Ont. Semipalmated Plover: 31 May 26 Riverside (AR). Black-bellied Plover: 1 May 17–26 Riverside (mob). Whimbrel: 1 May 27 Jamestown (Ruth Olson)—second record for Chaut Co. Upland Plover: arr 1 Apr 12 Falconer BOSAC. Solitary Sandpiper: arr early 1 Apr 11 Riverside (RAS, CB et al). Willet: 1 May 10 Town of Evans (RFA, Hauser). Knot: 1 May 17 Buffalo BOSMC. Pectoral Sandpiper: 110 Apr 19 Conewango Township, Catt Co (OS); last 1 May 31 Langford (TLB). Dunlin: 142 May 23 Fredonia (DC). Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 May 17–26 Riverside (mob). A dowitcher of undertermined species was carefully studied by at least 6 observers between Mar 31 and Apr 8 at Red Bird Corners, Chaut Co, more than 3 weeks early. Stilt Sandpiper: 1 May 19 Langford Pond (TLB, LR et al)—second spring record. Sanderling: arr early 3 May 2 Dunkirk Harbor (DC). *WILSON'S PHALAROPE*: 1 May 9 (Olsen), May 19 (Morse et al), May 20 (PB) INWR—second spring record. Iceland Gull: 1 Apr 10 Athol Springs (TLB). *LAUGHING GULL*: adult in breeding plumage Apr 26 Greenhurst, Chaut L (RAS, OS). Bonaparte's Gull: 1000 Apr 14 Lewiston to Youngstown (WHK); 2000 Apr 19 Dunkirk Harbor (DC). *LITTLE GULL*: singles Apr 12 Wilson BOSAC; Apr 14 Lewiston (WHK); Apr 19 Dunkirk Harbor (DC). Caspian Tern: 1 Apr 19 Dunkirk (RFA); 3 Apr 20 Cuba L (LDB); 1 Apr 29 Athol Springs (TLB); 3 May 17 OO area BOSMC.

Barn Owl: singles Apr 5 Hamburg (TLB); Apr 12 Grand Island BOSAC; Apr 14 26 Youngstown Cemetery (WHK); May 17 Hamburg BOSMC. Saw-whet Owl: last 1 May 12 Farmersville Station (DCs).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: arr 1 Apr 27 Lewiston (WHK); 3 others in or near Bflo. Chimney Swift: first 1 Apr 21 Belmont (LDB). Yellow-shafted Flicker: 264 Apr 16 over Canadaway Creek (DC). Red-bellied Woodpecker: adult male May 12, 14, 23 Riverside (ADR, CMN). Great Crested Flycatcher: arr early 1 Apr 26 Point Gratiot (PB, RB et al). Eastern Phoebe: good totals on BOSAC and MC—359 Apr 12; 349 May 17. Traill's Flycatcher: early arr 1 May 10 Akron (Wendlings).

Tree Swallow: 2399 May 17 BOSMC (compare with 1969 count of 639). Barn Swallow: 3648 May 17 BOSMC (1969 total 7442 [corrected from original report of

7392]). Cliff Swallow: 73 May 17 BOSMC (1969 figure 105). Purple Martin: 1167 May 17 BOSMC (814 in 1969 corrected from 754). Blue Jay: 400 May 9 south shore of Erie (HDM et al). *BOREAL CHICKADEE*: 1 Mar 23 Cuba (Keoples); last 1 Apr 12, 13 Fillmore BOSAC, (Palmer). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 60 Apr 12 BOSAC; 20 May 2 Dunkirk (DC). Carolina Wren: 5 individuals in scattered localities. Long-billed Marsh Wren: late arr 1 May 11 East Eden Pond (TLB). Short-billed Marsh Wren: singles May 16 Eden (TLB); May 17 OO area BOSMC; May 17 Bear L outlet, Stockton BOSMC.

Mockingbird: 7 at scattered localities, mostly in Southern Tier, including 4 migrants between Apr 23 and 27. Catbird: arr 2 Apr 21 Alma (LDB). Brown Thrasher: 4 Apr 12 BOSAC. *VARIED THRUSH*: wintering birds last noted first week in Apr—Riceville Apr 4, North Tonawanda Apr 7. Eastern Bluebird: 127 (148 in 1969). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 5 Apr 25 Point Gratiot (AS, AC); 13 May 17 BOSMC. Water Pipit: max 125 Apr 19 Stow (ADR, CMN). Northern Shrike: last 1 Apr 6 Jamestown (CB). Loggerhead Shrike: 8 Apr 12 BOSAC—unusually high total for recent years.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: WHITE-EYED VIREO: 1 May 1 Point Gratiot (FMR); 1 May 9 Jamestown (RAS, DC). Yellow-throated Vireo: 6 May 17 BOSMC—extremely scarce throughout Southern Tier counties. Solitary Vireo: 8 May 17 BOSMC—very scarce, especially considering substantial numbers usually breeding throughout Southern Tier. Philadelphia Vireo: excellent flight with scattering of singles and pairs throughout region starting with 1 May 11 Riverside (FE).

Black and White Warbler: arr 1 Apr 23 West Seneca (LMC). *PROTHONOTARY WARBLER*: largest number ever reported away from usual locality in OO area—early arr 1 Apr 28 Point Gratiot (OS, NB); 1 May 13, 15 Farmersville Station (DCs); 1 May 17 Hamburg area BOSMC; 1 May 23–29 Riverside Marsh (RAS et al); 8 May 17 OO area BOSMC. *WORM-EATING WARBLER*: 1 May 3, 4 Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (WAM, RFA, JT et al). Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 May 3 Fluvanna (RAS); 1 May 3 Barcelona (RAS). Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1 May 1 Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (RFA); 64 May 17 BOSMC. “Brewster’s” Warbler: singles May 9 Cold Spring Township, Catt Co (RAS, DC); May 17 Alfred Area BOSMC; May 22 Farmersville Station (DCs); May 25 Cherry Creek (FE). Tennessee Warbler: 110 May 17 BOSM. Orange-crowned Warbler: early arr 1 Apr 28 Point Gratiot (OS, NB); at least 3 between May 15 and 17 at widely scattered localities. Nashville Warbler: 93 May 17 BOSMC. Parula Warbler: 11 May 17 BOSMC—highest total since 21 in 1956. Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Apr 29 Sheridan (RB). Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1 Apr 28 Point Gratiot (OS, NB). Myrtle Warbler: excellent flight—arr 6 Apr 12 Fillmore and Cold Spring Township; Catt Co BOSAC; 300 estimated (118 banded) May 3 Riverside (ADR, CMN); 325 May 17 BOSMC. Black-throated Green Warbler: 309 May 17 BOSMC—highest total since 512 in 1948. Cerelean Warbler: arr singles Apr 30 Canadaway Creek, L Erie State Park (FE, ECP). Chestnut-sided Warbler: 326 May 17 BOSMC—highest count since 358 in 1956. Bay-breasted Warbler: 64 May 17 BOSMC—highest number since 108 in 1961. Blackpoll Warbler: unusually early 1 adult male banded May 3 Riverside (ADR, CMN). Pine Warbler: unusually early 1 Apr 8 Water Valley (TLB). Prairie Warbler: arr early 1 Point Gratiot (AS, AC); 1 May 15 Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (FMR). Ovenbird: arr early 1 Apr 28 Hamburg (RFA). Northern Waterthrush: arr 1 Apr 26 Mayville (RAS). *KENTUCKY WARBLER*: 3 males, 1 female banded and photographed at Riverside May 3–24 (ADR, CMN). Mourning Warbler: unusually early 1 banded May 2 Riverside (ADR, CMN). Yellowthroat: arr early 1 Apr 28 Holland (PB), 1 Apr 28 Frewsburg (ECP); 541 May 17 BOSMC—highest since 603 in 1962. Yellow-breasted Chat: 4 at scattered points. Hooded Warbler: arr early 1 Apr 26 Canadaway Creek (PB, RB); 1 May 1 Point Gratiot (FMR). Wilson’s Warbler: arr early 1 banded May 2 (ADR, CMN). Canada

Warbler: arr 2 banded May 2 Riverside (ADR, CMN); 1 May 2 Forest Lawn Cemetery, Bflo (AF et al).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Bobolink: arr early 2 Apr 27 Point Gratiot (RB et al). **WESTERN MEADOWLARK:** singles Apr 12, May 17 OO area BOSAC and MC; 1 May 2 Lakeview (TLB). Orchard Oriole: 1 May 9 Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg (TLB); 6 May 17 Bolivar area BOSMC. Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 Apr 29 Jamestown (CB); 1119 May 17 BOSMC. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD:** female critically identified at close range at feeder May 16 Hamburg (TLB). Scarlet Tanager: arr 1 Apr 29 Sheridan (RB); 389 May 17 BOSMC.

Cardinal: 501 Apr 12 BOSAC; 593 May 17 BOSMC. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 429 May 17 BOSMC. **BLUE GROSBEAK:** adult male carefully observed May 8 Riverside (ADR, CMN)—first record for region since 1950. Indigo Bunting: arr 1 at feeder May 2 Jamestown (Ganey). **PAINTED BUNTING:** adult male photographed at feeder May 18–21 Williamsville (HDM, WAM et al)—first substantiated record for region. Evening Grosbeak: excellent early Apr flight—929 Apr 12 BOSAC; 80 May 17 BOSMC. Purple Finch: 151 May 17 BOSMC. Common Redpoll: 257 Apr 12 BOSAC; 1 Apr 25 Point Gratiot (AS); last 1 at feeder Apr 28 Jamestown (Mrs. Frank Fields). Pine Siskin: 383 May 17 BOSMC. Red Crossbill: 68 May 17 Hamburg and Alfred areas BOSMC. White-winged Crossbill: 4 Apr 12 Fillmore area BOSAC. Rufous-sided Towhee: 5 40 May 17 BOSMC.

Tree Sparrow: 1351 Apr 12 BOSAC; last 1 at feeder Apr 29 Lewiston (WHK). **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW:** 1 adult observed and song tape recorded May 17–29 near Foster L, Alfred (Klingensmith, LDB et al). White-crowned Sparrow: 516 May 17 BOSMC. Fox Sparrow: 95 Apr 12 BOSAC; last 1 at feeder May 15 Hamburg (LR et al). Lincoln's Sparrow: arr 1 May 1 Spring Brook (Danner); 11 May 17 BOSMC; last 1 May 24 Hamburg (TLB). Lapland Longspur: last 12 Apr 19 Conewango Township, Catt Co (OS). Snow Bunting: last 1 Apr 7 Canadaway Creek (DC).

19 Chestnut Street, Jamestown, N.Y. 14701

REGION 2 — GENESEE

RICHARD T. O'HARA

Except for one period of about a week in mid-July and a few days in early August when high temperatures combined with high humidity in a very uncomfortable way, it was a pleasant summer in this part of the State. Very few days of 90° weather have occurred and most nights have cooled off for good sleeping. Precipitation has continued to be above normal in both June and July so that on August 1 the deficit of the early months of this year has been entirely erased, and a surplus of a little over an inch has now fallen. Fields and lawns have remained green, and wet areas contain higher than usual levels of water. In fact, there are very few places to find even the more common shorebirds in this Region not to mention rarer species.

Several of our local observers have remained quite active this summer, and the result is a good list of species not so often observed at this season. Many of these records, listed below, do not so much indicate unusual species as they show the wide variety which occurs at least in small numbers and in limited locations within the Region. There is no reason not to expect that it has been a productive breeding season for most species unless pesticides and pollution or habitat changes have been involved. Hopefully, increased public awareness of these problems will result in improvement where it is not already too late.

In the report below, some of the more interesting items include: (1) a sharp increase in Green Heron numbers and modest improvement in some other breeding herons especially Black-Browned Night Heron; (2) a poor flight of returning early shorebirds due to poor habitat; (3) a slight improvement in reports of breeding raptors; (4) much better numbers of Purple Martins and good breeding success; (5) continuing expansion of the spring Blue Jay flight in early June; (6) continued comeback of short-tailed sparrows.

Rarities noted include: Bald Eagle, Prothonotary Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill.

Abbreviations: BANS—Burroughs-Audubon Nature Sanctuary.

Observers: JB—Dr. Joseph Barra; MC—Michael Carlson; JD—James Doherty; JF—John Foster; GOS—Genesee Ornithological Society Field Trip; WL—Walter Listman; MO'H—Michael O'Hara; RO'H—Richard O'Hara; TT—Thomas Tetlow.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: somewhat improved breeding status after sharp drop of a few years ago. No southern herons reported in June or July after several spring reports. Usual few reports of Least Bittern. No known breeding colonies of Great Blue Heron which is no longer a common bird until after breeding season. Green Herons are everywhere and seem to be enjoying great success locally—the first breeding heron to show really marked improvement in years. Black-Crowned Night Heron and American Bittern: usual few reports mostly from Braddocks Bay area.

A late Canada Goose was still at Manitou on June 13 (WL). Two Canvasback were at Braddocks Bay on July 24 (RO'H). A late Greater Scaup was at the same place on June 16 (WL). In July Listman also noted the following ducks at Manitou: White-winged Scoter on the 18th; Hooded Merganser on the 28th and Red-breasted Merganser on the 6th; in August a Golden-eye and a Redhead on the 3rd and a Gadwall on the 4th. This is somewhat more than the usual small number of summer wanderers or stragglers in this Region.

HAWKS—OWLS: A Cooper's Hawk, now a rare breeder here, was noted near Dansville on July 21 (WL). The same observer and John Brown also noted Broad-winged Hawks on July 12 at two points in the hills south of Rochester-Honeoye Lake and Poka-Moonshine, near Dansville. We suspect, but cannot yet prove, they are breeding in the Region. The pair of Bald Eagles is again at the Region's only nesting site, but no one seems to be certain what success, if any, they have enjoyed. Two Osprey were reported from Braddocks Bay on June 19 (JB), somewhat late, and a good count of 12 Sparrow Hawks was made on the GOS hike to Avon on June 21. These small falcons are certainly doing somewhat better as breeders than was true a few years ago. No summer flight of Redtails had occurred along the lakeshore up to the 15th of August, but so many were noted along the N.Y. State Thruway on August 12 between Rochester and Batavia (12–15) that it seemed almost certain that they were migrating birds rather than local residents (RO'H).

Few rails were noted during this breeding season, but this may be due to high water levels rather than scarcity; these species are seen more often when mud flats are exposed along the cattail edges, a condition which exists almost nowhere this summer. Gallinules are in excellent supply everywhere.

Upland Plover seemed down at the Airport; only one was noted there on June 26 and 2 on August 10 (RO'H).

Shorebirds, as noted above, are the real weak spot on the list this summer so far. One or two Short-billed Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpipers did appear briefly in July along with a few Least Sandpiper and Yellowlegs but found no suitable place to stay and moved on quickly. In addition, several Sanderling were at Ontario Beach on July 24 and an occasional Wilson's Snipe, Pectoral Sandpiper and Solitary Sandpiper have appeared at scattered locations. There is hope that by September conditions may be

improved at Braddocks Bay or elsewhere, but it doesn't look like much of a summer or fall for these species in Region 2.

Bonaparte's Gulls returned as usual in July and both Common and Caspian Tern are now present in some numbers along the lakeshore. Black Tern seemed to enjoy a successful breeding season again and can be seen feeding young birds in many marshes.

Numbers of Mourning Doves are excellent with a continuing increase evident everywhere in the Region. On the other hand, both Cuckoos were again this summer infrequently noted.

A Barn Owl was present at the usual breeding site in Parma in late June but had disappeared in July (JD). A Barred Owl was calling at Bergen Swamp on July 2 (MC et al), and a young Great Horned was noted calling for food the same evening a few miles away (MO'H et al). Few Screech Owls were reported again this summer, although this does not necessarily indicate any change in status.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLINGS: A Whip-poor-will was reported as present all month at Poka-Moonshine in June (fide Brown). This bird is now only a very local breeder in the region and seems to be somewhat less common as a spring migrant than it was several years back. Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts are normal and Kingfishers and Flickers are both in good numbers. Our other breeding woodpeckers are all present at the usual locations except that no reports of Sapsuckers were received this summer.

Breeding flycatchers also appear to be doing well locally with Traill's perhaps increasing after a few years of decreased abundance. Swallows, likewise, are common with high flocks of Bank Swallows along the west lakeshore in late July; estimates of flocks roosting in Braddocks Bay marshes range to 10,000 or more (WL). Tree Swallows are taking advantage of many boxes set out for Bluebirds along the lakeshore and like the Purple Martins seem to have done very well.

Crows still do not appear to be present in expected numbers in this Region; while still common and seen almost every trip, numbers are not large on most check lists. On the other hand, Blue Jays are certainly increasing as a resident as well as a migrant. The Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported in Durand-Eastman Park as late as June 13 and again on July 24; it seems very probable that they are breeding there, but no real evidence was found. The Brown Creeper is also reported present and apparently breeding in Fairport this summer (TT). House Wrens are now back to normal in most parts of this Region and Long-billed Marsh Wrens seem to be increasing after a recent decline—one more indication of some recovery in our marsh bird population which has only been evident for a year or so. Short-billed Marsh Wrens, 2 birds, were noted singing in a Webster field in July (O'Haras); this bird has been scarce for two or three years now; it was also noted in June at Avon (JF. TT) and at Pultneyville (Perrigos).

Both the Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher are on the increase also, with the former now noted west of Rochester as well as at older stations east and south of the city (WL). A Hermit Thrush was singing at Poka-Moonshine all through June (fide Brown); this is one of the few locations where it apparently breeds regularly in Region 2; few of our other hills reach the required 2,000 ft. elevation. There is little evidence of any improvement in the very local and scattered population of Bluebirds here. Cedar Waxwings showed up in some numbers from early June on and are now near normal numbers after being scarce in the early months of the year. Listman noted Migrant Shrike on two occasions this summer in Kendall and Carlton, west of Rochester, but otherwise this bird has been unreported.

Starling are in excellent numbers, as always!

VIREOS—WARBLERS: A Solitary Vireo was singing on July 12 at Honeoye Lake (WL, JB). This is a scarce breeder in the higher hills south of Rochester and is seldom noted at this season here. The commoner breeding vireos, Red-eyed, Warb-

ling and Yellow-throated are normal in numbers with the Red-eyed showing an upturn after recent poor years.

Among our breeding warblers, most seem in normal abundance with the Yellow-throat excellent; Redstart improving after a dip, but no reports for Black-and-white or Chestnut-sided received.

The more unusual reports include Prothonotary at Oak Orchard on July 2 (MO'H et al); and on July 11 (GOS hike); and Louisiana Waterthrush on August 6 at Canandaigua Lake (RO'H). Hooded Warblers were reported only from Pellet Road where they are regular breeders.

Late spring migrants among the warblers were noted as follows: Magnolia June 7 at Manitou (WL); Black-throated Green June 17 Webster (McNetts); Blackburnian June 6 Webster (McNetts); Wilsons June 7 Manitou (WL).

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Western Meadowlark, a regular yearly occurrence west of the city recently was also noted at Lima, south of Rochester in June this year (JF). Listman again noted the Orchard Oriole at Carlton on the west Lakeshore—an immature male in song on June 13 and 14. Although Redwings and Grackles continue abundant, the Cowbird seems less common this year—a welcome trend after the great increase of recent years.

Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are present in good numbers while Indigo Buntings appear more common than a year ago. Cardinals are everywhere, apparently still increasing as the Christmas Census seems to confirm each year.

Winter finches were still present in early June in surprising variety: Evening Grosbeak 4 June 12 Manitou Beach (WL); Pine Siskin 1 June 6 (Perrigos); Red Crossbill 1 June 8 Pittsford (Perrigos), 5 June 8 same place and observers, 2 Durand-Eastman Park June 13 (MC).

Goldfinches and Towhees are common, with the latter species increasing where formerly cultivated land is returning to brush as farms continue to decline in Monroe and surrounding counties. While the short-tailed sparrows; i.e., Savannah, Henslow's, Grasshopper, are on the upswing, they are not yet at a peak of abundance in what seems to be a fluctuating population pattern. A report of Lincoln Sparrows—1 or 2 birds-at BANC in June was accompanied by a very complete description; yet it seems so improbable as to make further observation highly desirable. Other breeding species seem normal to somewhat above normal with Chipping Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow apparently increasing after rather low points in the past few years.

265 Carling Road, Rochester, New York 14610

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. McILROY AND SALLY HOYT SPOFFORD

June was moderately cool, averaging about 2° below normal temperatures and with below normal rainfall. In July, temperatures were normal, with heavy rainfall—several inches above normal in some counties. The July 3 cloudburst caused extensive damage in the Newfield and Connecticut Hill areas southwest of Ithaca and undoubtedly resulted in the loss of many nests and young birds, but actually I received few reports of such. The first half of August was warmer than normal, with sunny skies and almost no rain.

I have no report from the Hornell or the Geneva areas for this summer, but am pleased to have received some notes from Canandaigua, north-western corner of the Region, from Art Schaffner. The fact that we are losing some critical birding areas due to various types of human activity, was well pointed up by remarks from Mary Welles of Elmira, who comments especially on the filling in of the Horseheads dump,

described now as "a beautifully levelled off" landfill. It formerly was a stop-off for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, but the water, shallow areas and cattails are all gone. A former area of willow trees and a small stream along a railroad, once good for warblers, is now a bare, level piece of ground with only a small patch of water. The Horseheads A and P ponds are now either too deep, dried up or choked with algae. Art Schaffner commented on the absence of suitable nesting places for waterfowl in the Canandaigua area. Similar situations are found throughout the Region.

Reports were received from four of the 25 mile Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Surveys conducted in the Finger Lakes. At least two have now been run for five years. I have no report of the Orleans count for this year. Highlights of the others are as follows:

The Rushville count (FG) had 48 species, down three from 1969 while the 54 species on the Branchport count (FG) was five more than in 1969. On the Dryden East count (SHS) the total was 62 species, equalling the high of 1968 and seven above the 1969 count. Killdeer, Downy Woodpeckers, Crows, Catbirds, Cowbirds and Chipping Sparrows showed an increase, while Flickers, Traill's Flycatchers, Blue Jays, House Wrens, Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Bobolinks and Field Sparrows had decreased. On the Trumansburg count (DM) 59 species were listed, the highest in the five years. Increases were noted in Sparrow Hawks, Killdeer, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Robin, Wood Thrush, Yellow Warbler and Baltimore Oriole, and of interest was the count of five Henslow's Sparrows, only one having been recorded on previous counts. A decrease was noted in Mourning Doves, Blue Jay, Crow, Catbird, Chipping Sparrow and Field Sparrow.

The breeding bird census of Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary was taken on June 6 and 7 and with the late season additions of the waterfowl broods and late nesters, the total was 56 species this year, up three from 1969. However, numbers of individuals showed a drop, especially in such species as Tree Swallows, Wood Thrushes, Veerys and Red-eyed Vireos.

The summer fruit crop was excellent.

Area compilers and observers: RA—Robert Andrie; WEB—Walter E. Benning; JBr—Jack Brubaker; FG—Frank Guthrie; CH—Clayton Hardy; WH—Wilfred Howard; CL—Charles Leck; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; AS—Art Schaffner; BS—Betty Strath; MS—Mark Stephenson; SHS—Sally H. Spofford; WRS—Walter R. Spofford; JJT—James and Jean Tate; MW—Mary Welles.

Localities: Cay L—Cayuga Lake; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen L—Seneca Lake; SWS—Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 Jun 17 Keuka L, late date. Pied-billed Grebe: 250 young raised from 75 nests MNWR, up considerably (CH). Double-crested Cormorant: 2, 1 ad 1 imm, present whole season MNWR (WEB). Great Blue Heron: 200 or more nests Marengo Swamp near MNWR, 75–80% occupied and successful; max MNWR 30 Jul 24 (WEB); 6 nests, 13 young Reynoldsville (BS). Cattle Egret: no reports. Common Egret: max 6 Jul 26 (WEB). Black-crowned Night Heron: 25 nests in cattails MNWR produced 25 young (CH). American Bittern: few sightings MNWR; only 2 records Keuka area (FG). Least Bittern: very few sightings all period; 2 nests produced 5 young MNWR (CH).

1970 WATERFOWL PRODUCTION MNWR (CH).

	Broods seen	Est. total young	Comparison with '69*
Canada Goose	30	130	+
Mallard	22	500	—
Black	2	60	—
Gadwall	30	600	—

Pintail	1	5	+
Green-winged Teal	2	15	+
Blue-winged Teal	15	500	-
Shoveler	0	0	-
Wood Duck	22	420	-
Redhead	1	50	+
Hooded Merganser	1	20	+

* Figures from October, 1969 *Kingbird*.

1 male European Widgeon present MNW Jun 20-Jul 3 (WEB). 1 pair Canvasback seen occasionally MNWR throughout period (WEB). Red-breasted Merganser: 1 brood 6 Keuka L in August, unusual (FG).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: 1 raised Marengo Swamp, 24 seen there Jun 24 (WEB); 6 Jul 3 south of Rushville, Yates Co. (AS). Goshawk: 1 ad seen two different localities near Ithaca, probable nesting but not found. Sharp-shinned Hawk: none seen in most areas of Region, no nests found, 1 bird over Etna Jun 28 (SHS). Cooper's Hawk: 2 nests known Ithaca area, 3 young banded in one, young taken from other in Jun. Red-tailed Hawk: normal nesting success, many sightings. Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 sighting, 2 birds SWS (MS). Broad-winged Hawk: seen occasionally over Mt. Pleasant near Etna, new location (JJT). Bald Eagle: 1 imm. seen fairly regularly MNWR and vicinity. Marsh Hawk: only a few sightings, female only, during period MNWR. Sparrow Hawk: abundant, good breeding success except in Watkins Glen area (JBr). Ruffed Grouse: seemed down in Keuka area (FG).

Virginia and Sora Rails were not abundant but water was high MNWR, sightings difficult. Common Gallinule: 100 nests produced 400 young MNWR (CH), six times last year's production; 1 brood seen Aug 15 was of still tiny young (WEB). American Coot: 50 broods, 200 young somewhat lower than in '69 (CH).

Shorebirds were scarce at Keuka, no mudflats. Last in spring (northward) migration a few Dunlin Jun 1 Ithaca (CL); Semipalmated Sandpiper present to Jun 14 MNWR (WEB). First southward migration Jul 1 MNWR (WEB). Unless otherwise stated the following shorebird records are those of WEB at MNWR. Semipalmated Plover: 1 Jul 19 max 16 Aug 15. Killdeer: max 24 Jul 25; nested roof of Mann Library, Cornell U, 4 eggs in June (RB Fischer). Black-bellied Plover: 1 Aug 12, 2 Aug 15. American Woodcock: max 20 Jul 1 (CH). Common Snipe: max 6 Aug 14. Upland Plover: max 10 Jun 28 Elmira (WH). Spotted Sandpiper: max 18 Jun 28. Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Jul 18 Waterloo dump, 2 MNWR Aug 14. Greater Yellowlegs: first 3 Jul 18, max 10 Aug 1. Lesser Yellowlegs: first 1 Jul 1, max 105 Aug 14. Pectoral Sandpiper: first Aug 8 three weeks later than usual, max 17 Aug 15. Least Sandpiper: max 19 Aug 15. Short-billed Dowitcher: first 13 Jul 8, max 15 Aug 12. Semipalmated Sandpiper: first fall migrants 4 Jul 18, max 157 Aug 15. Wilson's Phalarope: 1 Jul 26, Aug 14-15. A Yellowlegs seen in late June in town of Canandaigua is a mystery for that date (AS).

Common Tern: 2 nests produced 4 young MNWR. Caspian Tern: 2 Aug 9 MNWR, only report. Black Tern: 100 nests produced 100 young MNWR, numbers present showed definite decrease by end Jul. Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Aug 1 only record for period (WEB). Mourning Doves: good numbers except Canandaigua area. Black-billed Cuckoo: several observers felt there were a few more this year, but still uncommon. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: extremely scarce. Barn Owl: it has been learned that a pair was evicted from its tower-home in Canandaigua last spring (AS); no other reports. Screech Owl: 1 successful nesting known other than Etna pair reported last issue, this one at Odessa, 3 yg raised (BS). Barred Owl: no young seen SWS this year; pair nested MNWR; single seen Birch Creek Road south of Elmira Aug 4, eating a rat (Carl Wood). Saw-whet Owl: no reports.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Common Nighthawk: only 2 records at Keuka; few noted at Ithaca; no breeding at Canandaigua. Chimney Swift: MNWR personnel report they seemed less common over Refuge this year. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, extremely scarce everywhere; in my own yard where I formerly always had three or four pairs at feeders during summer, I had only 2 sightings this season. Belted Kingfisher: seemed in good numbers, present in expected places but no summary of breeding success. Yellow-shafted Flickers: reported by all as apparently abundant. Red-headed Woodpeckers: the apparent increase mentioned in last report continued; present at half a dozen places at Keuka (FG); 1 near Watkins Marsh (Joe Kloppel); 2 sightings in Region 3 portion of Ontario County; pair on Wells College Golf Course, Aurora; at least 5 other localities nr Ithaca with 2 definite nestings.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: SWS nest broken up; 3 immatures appeared in Etna in July, (el. 1050) suspected nesting on nearby Mt. Pleasant. Eastern Kingbird: reported as down at Odessa and Canandaigua; first migrants Jul 31-Aug 5. (AS); in satisfactory numbers Cay L Basin. All other flycatchers seemed scarce. 4 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers netted and banded Penn Yan in Aug, early migrants (M. Lerch). Olive-sided Flycatcher Jun 19 Odessa is late date, non-breeder (BS). Tree Swallows: alarmingly scarce, many formerly-used nest boxes empty. Max numbers Tree and Bank Swallows flocking on wires MNWR 500, compared with 10,000 a few years ago. However, Bank Swallows in good numbers Watkins Glen (JBr) and Big Flats (MW); those in latter colony departed Jul 20. Barn Swallows doing well. Cliff Swallows: few reports, Voak colony Yates Co had 59 nests where no success in '69. Purple Martin: the decline continues; a few on west side Cay 1, small colony near Freeville, a few west side Canandaigua L (AS) where have been absent for several years; last date there Aug 11; Strath colony on Sen L produced only 7 young from 12 pairs birds.

Long-billed Marsh Wren: scattered reports as usual. Short-billed Marsh Wren: no reports. Mockingbird: increased reports of nestings in Region: At Lauferschwailers' in Elmira, 3 nestings with 4, 1 and 2 fledged; other Elmira nests also noted; 2 at Keuka, 3 nestings in Ithaca, 1 of which fledged 4 on its second attempt (DM). Brown Thrashers: seemed fairly common, no reports on nesting success. Eastern Bluebird: extremely scarce in Ithaca area; at Penn Yan, M. Lerch put up boxes, banded 54 young and 2 adults. Golden-crowned Kinglet: a pair with male singing noted in spruces nr Bennettsburg Jul 23 (JBr); 2 Jun 22 nr Summer Hill Cay Co. el 1650; 1 Jun 22 3 mi east Locke el 1680; 2 east Sempronius Jun 23 el 1580 (RA). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: although not found on breeding bird census, 1 seen Jul 27 SWS (MS). Cedar Waxwing: abundant, enjoying the fruit crop.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos scarce. Warbling Vireo in normal numbers, never abundant. No warblers could be called abundant, species (WEB). Myrtle Warbler: singing male nr Summer Hill Cay Co Jun 22 el 1650 (RA); few summer records for Region. **BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER**: a bird which answered perfectly the description of this species was seen several times in late Jun in evergreens at the Mitchell Street residence of the Maurice Bonds in Ithaca; with no further verification it must remain a question, but there is a specimen of the species in the Cornell collection from Ithaca, November 1932, and another report from the state this spring (See *The Kingbird* Vol. XX, No. 3 for July 1970, p. 117) Blackburnian Warbler; a singing male Jun 26 MNWR is a late record for a place which would not seem to be suitable nesting habitat (CH). Blackpoll Warbler: banded by Lerch Aug 8 Penn Yan, an early record. Prairie Warbler: an estimated 9-10 pairs in Elmira area, apparently 1 only on Conn Hill s.w. Ithaca. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**: a singing male, Monkey Run area near Varna Jun 26 (RA); no further details. Yellow-breasted Chat: scarce. Canada Warbler: it was sad to find none of this species SWS on breeding bird census, formerly such a typical bird of the Sanctuary.

Redstart: seemed in slightly better numbers than in recent years, but not up to the late 1950's.

On the 25 mile breeding bird censuses the following species were recorded.

	Dryden	Trumansburg	Branchport	Rushville
Yellow-thr. Vireo	0	0	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	9	6	0	2
Warbling Vireo	0	3	1	1
Yellow Warbler	8	30	1	9
Magnolia Warbler	1	0	0	0
Bl-thr Green Warb	1	0	0	0
Chestnut-sided Warb	0	2	1	0
Ovenbird	2	1	0	0
Yellowthroat	33	15	17	6
Redstart	1	1	0	1

BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole: probably nested at Keuka, though nest not found (FG); nested again West Hill, Ithaca, 2 young seen Aug 4 (V & M Hannan). Brown-headed Cowbird: reported as strangely scarce around Canandaigua (AS). Scarlet Tanager: slight increase over last few years though not found on Dryden East 25 mile run this year. Indigo Buntings: absent from some former localities-habitat change. House Finch: 1 young being fed in Elmira (Rosemary Conley), near feeder where first recorded earlier this year. Red Crossbill: last record at Keuka mid-May (FG); last date Horseheads Jun 17 (A. Klieger); however, although no nest was found in Region, there were other reports of late June sightings and of young being fed; still 27 at Barnettes in Ithaca first week June; young being fed at Shepherd home Ithaca Jun 14; 2 young being fed Watkins Glen mid-June (JBr), present there until Jul 5. Savannah and Vesper Sparrows seemed in better numbers than for several years; Henslow's, Grasshopper and Swamp Sparrows scarce.

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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

M. S. RUSK AND F. G. SCHEIDER

June and July were both wet but moderate in temperatures. August, however, turned hot and dry, and local wild fruit crops and weed seeds both advanced accordingly. The current crop of hawthorne and Black-haw fruits can only be described as impressive. Most land birds appeared to have good nesting success, but several windstorms in early July must have done some damage.

Extensive birding exploration and singing male counts were undertaken in northern Herkimer County, the Tug Hill Plateau, the southern highlands of Onondaga, Madison, Oneida, and Herkimer Counties, and in the high deciduous areas of southwestern Onondaga County. Unfortunately, woodlots local to Syracuse and broken or mixed agricultural-deciduous woodland areas of the Ontario lakeplain were somewhat neglected.

Ornithological positives include: 1) some increase in both Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will; 2) increased numbers of Eastern Phoebe and Least Flycatcher; 3) marked increase in Bank and Barn Swallow numbers; 4) a steady increase in breeding Brown Creepers; 5) increase of House Wren, Robin, and Wood Thrush, with possible local range extension of the last; 6) high numbers of Red-eyed Vireo; 7) certain warbler increases—Golden-winged, Parula, Yellow, Blackburnian, Chest-

nut-sided. Rarities were Franklin's Gull, Western Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, and House Finch.

Negatives are: 1) virtually no white herons; 2) a decline in Black Duck and scarcity of introduced Redhead; 3) apparent extirpation of Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Marsh Hawks as breeders; 4) a poor early shorebird flight, particularly low in variety and only fair in numbers; 5) a paucity of Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Tree Swallow, and Long-billed Marsh Wren; 6) low numbers of certain deciduous woods warblers—Black-and-white, Cerulean, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart; 7) a decline in several open-ground species—Killdeer, Horned Lark, and Vesper Sparrow.

Abbreviations: Brkfld—an all-day car survey of the woods roads of SW Brookfield Twp Jul 5 by MSR and CGS; CV—Camillus Valley; DH—Derby Hill near Texas; F&WBBS—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey, Clinton Jul 3 by C. C. Spies, Kasoag Jun 9 by M. S. Rusk, N. Wilmurt Jun 16 by F. G. Scheider, Oneida Jun 24 by B. Peebles; FR—Fox Ridge sugar beet waste impoundments near Port Byron; HIGMA—Howland Island Game Mgt Area near Port Byron; LJCMA—Littlejohn Game Mgt Area in Oswego Co Tug Hill; Onon—Onondaga; RSP—Rome Sand Plains; SP—Sandy Pond; SPI—Sandy Pond inlet; SSSP—Selkirk Shores State Park near Pulaski; Syr—Syracuse; THP—Tug Hill Plateau.

Observers: JRB—J. R. Bart, DC—C. Crumb; FD—F. Dittrich; FLF—F. LaFrance; DJ—D. Janes; GP—G. Perrigo III; MSR—M. S. Rusk; FGS—F. G. Scheider; GS—G. Smith; JS—J. Snelling; CGS—C. G. Spies; RJS—R. J. Sutliff.

Once again, the editors express their appreciation to compilers D. Crumb, F. LaFrance, C. S. Spies, and R. J. Sutliff, who helped with this report.

Corrigenda: Region 5 report spring 1970—

p. 136, Max Snow Goose 9 Apr 26.

p. 139, Olive-sided Flycatcher:—4—May 26–29; Brown Creeper: max 18; Catbird: arr Apr 27.

p. 142, Slate-colored Junco—most counts 10–20 per day.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: dep Jun 5 SP; reported repeatedly at Stillwater Reservoir in Herkimer Co with max 7 Jun 25 (MSR, CGS); also noted Jun 26 Big Moose L (CGS). Pied-billed Grebe: several previously regular sites abandoned—Stevens Pond and Scott Swamp (both near Phoenix), South Bay marsh on Oneida L, and Clay Swamp; max 7 (an ad with 6 young) on Mud L in Webb Twp in Herkimer Co. Double-crested Cormorant: 1 Jun 4 Onon L (FGS) is the only summer report.

Great Blue Heron: 21 active nests with 60 young Cross L, 34 active nests with 83 young near Bridgeport, 3 active nests with 1 young each Three Rivers Game Mgt Area (all DJ); 7 active nests at Old Fly in Pompey Twp (FLF). Common Egret: 1 noted near Jamesville (DC) is only report. Black-crowned Night Heron: singles only—Jun 1 W of Syr (JWP), an imm Jul 25 FR (MSR, CGS), and an ad Aug 9 near Scott Swamp (GS). Least Bittern: newly reported Jul 26 from Oswego area (C. Wernick).

Canada Goose: max 137 Jul 24 FR-HIGMA (GS); unreported away from there. Mallard: broods of 8, 7, 7, 7, 6, and 5 at a Rome marsh; most other counts 10–40 per day with best numbers from FR-HIGMA; markedly decreased in Clay Swamp where highway construction is lowering the water level and creating tremendous disturbance. Black Duck: scarce everywhere—max only 20 at the Rome marsh Jul 24 (FGS); is it succumbing to rising numbers of Mallards, to persistent pesticides, to marsh disturbance and destruction,—or to all three? Pintail: arr Jul 24 Rome marsh (FGS). Green-winged Teal: female with brood of 4 Jun 16 Rome marsh (FGS); the eastern most breeding site known in the Region; singles noted Aug 5 Peterboro Swamp (FLF, FD) and Jun 25 Beaver R in N Herkimer Co (CGS, MSR); arr Jul

31, 2 Onon L (FGS). Blue-winged Teal: scattered broods reported but max only 20 Jul 24 Rome marsh (FGS). Wood Duck: broods of 8-11 reported; max 55, a mixed collection of adults and young, Aug 5 Peterboro Swamp (FLF, FD).

Redhead: max for summer 9 at HIGMA (DC, GS); no evidence of the abundant population artificially established there 7-8 years ago. Only other summering diving ducks were 1 Canvasback Jul 24 HIGMA (DC, GS) and 1 White-winged Scoter Jun 5 L Ontario (FLF); the abundant boating use of local lakes will probably eliminate the few summering diving ducks regularly noted heretofore. Common Merganser: unreported from any area of either the THP or the wilder lakes of N Herkimer Co; this species may have disappeared as a local breeder? disturbance or pesticides?

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: regularly reported, 3-6 per day, from Scott Swamp, HIGMA-FR, and the Mexico-Texas sector; a single Jul 1 Pompey Twp (DC) is most unusual. Goshawk: nest of 2 young banded Jun 24 in Florence Twp by JS; single Jun 23 Webb Twp (CGS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Jun 15 LJGMA is only the second one FGS has seen in 12 years of checking there; only 2 noted by 18 observers for entire summer. Similarly, Cooper's Hawk was extraordinarily scarce with only 2 reported, both from northern hardwoods locations; no breeding sites known. Red-tailed Hawk: Adirondack max 3 in Webb Twp; multiple sightings in Pompey-Fabius-Georgetown sector (FLF) involving at least 6 pairs. Red-shouldered Hawk: nest of 2 young banded Jun 24 in Florence Twp by JS; otherwise, consistently and in very low numbers, 1-3 per day, reported only from Adirondacks; the only other report is 1 Jun 16 near Rome (FGS); this species must be considered lost as a breeder in most of the Region including both THP and HIGMA, which were checked for them. Broad-winged Hawk: nest of 3 young banded Jun 24 in Florence Twp by JS; regularly reported at Highland Forest in SE Onon Co (DC) and newly reported Jul 19 in Onon Twp (MSR, CGS); multiple sightings of 1-4 per day in THP and many singles in Webb Twp.

Bald Eagle: imm Jul 17 on N shore of Oneida L (DJ); 2 adults first half of Jul N end of Cross L (Mrs. Bennett fide DJ). Marsh Hawk: very very scarce—a single male Jun 28 Richland (MSR, CGS) and 1 of undetermined sex Jul 5 LJGMA (GP) are the only summer reports! Osprey: noted again in Webb Twp; a pair that attempted nesting in 1969 at Stillwater Reservoir were shot by an unknown gunner. Sparrow Hawk: max for summer 9 in 1 group Aug 6 Clay Twp and 10 Aug 8 Port Byron-FR area (both CGS).

Ruffed Grouse: multiple brood sightings of 6-10 per brood in all sectors but especially in THP and Adirondacks. Gray Partridge: pair Jun 3 in Pompey Twp (FLF) is proof of persistent overwintering success there. Virginia Rail: broods of 3 Jun 14 near Jordan (FD) and of 6 Jun 16 in Rome marsh (FGS); a single Jun 10 in Fabius (FLF)—heretofore unreported there. American Coot: single only at FR thru summer—despite its being fantastically common at Montezuma NWR, it is at best a rare and irregular breeder in Region 5 even as close to Montezuma as FR-HIGMA.

Common Snipe: newly noted at different sites in Fabius (FLF), S Onon (GS), the Rome marsh (FGS), and 1 in active courtship Jun 17 at Stillwater Reservoir. Upland Plover: newly reported Jun 25 in upland farm country at Georgetown (FLF).

Shorebird arrivals—Semipalmated Plover: Jul 20, 1 Onon L. Black-bellied Plover: Aug 11, 1 Onon L. Ruddy Turnstone: Aug 2, 3 SPI. Solitary Sandpiper: Jun 30, 1 Pompey Twp (DC). Greater Yellowlegs: Jul 16, 1 Nine Mile Pt on L Ontario E of Oswego. Lesser Yellowlegs: Jun 28, 1 Onon L. Knot: Jul 22, 1 Nine Mile Pt. Pectoral Sandpiper: Jul 18, 2 Nine Mile Pt. White-rumped Sandpiper: Aug 4, 1 Onon L. Baird's Sandpiper: Aug 9, 1 Nine Mile Pt. Least Sandpiper: Jul 2, 3 Onon L. Short-billed Dowitcher: Jul 14, Onon L. Stilt Sandpiper: Jul 15, 1 Onon L. Semipalmated Sandpiper: Jul 16, 2 Nine Mile Pt. Western Sandpiper: Jul 30, 1 FR (FGS).

Sanderling: Jul 20, 13 Onon L. Wilson's Phalarope: Aug 2, 2 Nine Mile Pt (FLF, RJS).

Great Black-backed Gull: last noted Jun 1 9 SPI. Herring Gull: 18 nests on Long Is in Oneida L Jun 7 and some nests (not counted) on Wantry Is, the only one of the Oneida L islands to have both Herring and Ring-billed Gulls and also Common Terns breeding (all JRB). Ring-billed Gull. 300-500 per day at SPI and similar numbers at Nine Mile Pt; breeding on Wantry but not on Long or Grassy Island in Oneida L (JRB). *FRANKLIN'S GULL*: subadult Jul 19-Aug 1 Onon L (FLF, mob); a similar subadult Aug 3-16 SPI (FLF, RJS, mob); usually we get only 1 in 2 years. Common Tern: colony at Carl Is SP had 28 nests and 70 adults Jun 14 (MSR, CGS); Wantry Is had 103 nests (only 2 with chicks, the rest with eggs) Jul 17 (DJ); Long Is had 335 nests and Grassy Is (the only 1 of the 3 islands with neither gull nesting) 354 nests, both Jun 7 (JRB); average clutch size on the Oneida L islands was 2-plus eggs (JRB); low fledging success on the Oneida L islands considered due to high water in Jun (fide JRB). Black Tern: very scarce as local breeder—max 15 in marsh in S end of SP; South Bay Rd colony in N Syr and Clay Swamp colonies have been destroyed by recent road construction, and there is no evidence that *any* Black Terns nested in Scott Swamp this year.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: extremely scarce—only 2 singles reported by 18 observers for entire period. Black-billed Cuckoo: only 23 noted by 18 observers and many observers saw none. Both cuckoos seem to be rapidly following the local hawks into oblivion; ? is this true across the state? Barn Owl: only report 1 Jun 1 Syr (J. W. Propst). Screech Owl: new locations, all in southern hill country, at Otisco Aug 8 (CGS), Navarino, and S Onon. Great Horned Owl: 1 each at Cicero and Port Byron, both new locations. Barred Owl: 1 Jun 14 at RSP (D. Ackley, P. & S. Paquette) and 2 Jul 9 CV (DC) are definitely new sites; 1-4 per day in Eagle Bay-Big Moose-Stillwater sector of Herkimer Co.

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Whip-poor-will: nest with 2 eggs found May 30 at Pineville in Oswego Co (MSR, CGS), seen by many thereafter, photographed, and the 2 young seen Jun 18 (DC); local high counts include 7 May 30 Happy Valley Game Mgt Area near Parish and 11 Jun 4 W Vienna Twp (both, CGS, MSR), also 13 Jun 16 Vienna Twp (B. & S. Peebles); may be on the upswing in favored sectors. Common Nighthawk: max 18 Jul 2 Syr (CGS); repeated surveys of Syr by 3 observers revealed approximately 33 pairs utilizing city sites. Chimney Swift: summer max 49 Jul 31 Syr-Baldwinsville-Fulton (CGS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: extraordinarily scarce around Syr—only 3 singles noted by 18 observers in the Ontario lakeplain country; max 11 Jun 17 Big Moose-Beaver R in Webb Twp (FGS); regularly reported, 1-4 per day, thru Jun in THP.

Yellow-shafted Flicker: appears to be increasing locally—10-24 per day with the best count 29 Jun 17 Big Moose-Beaver R. Pileated Woodpecker: singles Jun 5 Salmon R reservoir and Jun 15 LJGMA, both THP locales where it is scarce; also Jul 5 W of Cazenovia (CGS). Red-headed Woodpecker: increasing Pompey-Fabius with 5 sites detected (FLF); negatively, the 3 S Onon pairs (cf. 1969) are down to 1 (CS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: counts 7-18 per day in THP and Adirondacks; also regularly present in returning hardwood forests and upland swamps of S Madison and S Onon Cos (FLF); high of 11 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS (previous high 6). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 4 birds at 3 separate sites in N and N-central Herkimer Co (FGS, MSR, CGS, K. Slotnick).

Eastern Kingbird: widely reported with many at farmhouse sites in Pompey and Fabius Twps (DC); max 11 Clinton F&WBBS; a tally of 50 Jul 26 Syr to W Winfield probably represented both breeders and early migrants (CGS). Eastern Phoebe: 6 on both Kasoag and N Wilmurt F&WBBS; max 8 Jun 7 Oswego Co (GS). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 6 per day Jun 17-18 Big Moose-Beaver R (FGS); 1 Jun 22 near Boonville in Adirondack fringes (MSR); none reported from non-Adirondack

sectors. Traill's Flycatcher: multiple sites in FR vicinity with total of 20 "fitz-bew" and 1 "waybeo" Jul 25 (CGS); 5 "fitz-bew" and 3 "waybeo" in CV Jun 13 (mob); Adirondack max only 9 "waybeo" Jun 17 along 12 miles of railroad (FGS). Least Flycatcher: max 79 Jun 6 in 7 miles of THP roads in Redfield Twp (FGS); 24 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS, the most in 4 years of steady increase, but Kasoag F&WBBS seems stable with 10-16 over the 5 years. Eastern Wood Pewee: 6-29 per day in all sectors—as common in Adirondacks as in CV. Olive-sided Flycatcher: multiple Adirondack sightings; only other is 1 Jun 15 LJGMA in THP (FGS).

Horned Lark: very scarce this summer—most observers reported 1-2 per day only; changes in land use in Onon Co with much cropland now gone fallow awaiting speculative development and the high mowing pattern on highways and at airports has cut down sharply on available breeding sites for this species, which deserves close watching in the next 5-10 years. Tree Swallow: extraordinarily scarce with no summer tallies over 90 per day; most observers had 20-30 per day and only at favored areas; not only are numbers low but also numerous reports of nesting failures were received (DC). Bank Swallow: intensive search for colonies showed many present—26 active holes at DeWitt (W. Brosseau), 50 DeRuyter Reservoir (FLF), 97 near Carter Station in Herkimer Co (CGS), 173 Fulton (CGS), 160 near Lenox Furnace (MSR), 410 Clay Twp (FGS). Barn Swallow: just the reverse of Tree Swallow with counts of 40-300 per day in all sectors; at least 7 active nests on rock ledges at Nine Mile Pt Jun 20 (CGS, MSR)—unusual for the species to use a natural site; many barns with multiple nests noted and 32 nests on Big Moose RR station. Cliff Swallow: colony at Georgetown abandoned for first time "in years" (FLF); no colonies found on S shore of Oneida L, although colonies of 10 nests at Toad Harbor, 14 at W Monroe, 23 at Pineville—all N shore or sub-THP sites (CGS); also 16 active nests Lacona Jul 4 (GP). Migrant swallows—2000-6000 Bank Swallows per day Aug 1-10, 600-1100 Barn Swallows per day Aug 1-15, and 500-1000 Purple Martins per day Aug 1-15, all at SP (GP), obviously a huge gulp of swallows. 500-600 Purple Martins per day Aug 13-15 at Mexico Pt and DH (mob).

Blue Jay: 9 migrating by DH Jun 19—extraordinarily late! Black-capped Chickadee: many small family flocks reported throughout; max 24 Brkfld; Adirondack max 20 in 12 miles Jun 17. Tufted Titmouse: a single in bog at Carpenter's Pond in Pompey Twp Jun 20 (FLF)—a most unusual locale. Red-breasted Nuthatch: multiple sightings at SSSP, RSP, Boonville, and widely reported throughout Adirondacks; however, the only reports from the southern highlands are 2 Pratts Falls in Pompey Twp Aug 6 (DC) and Brkfld Jul 4-5 (MSR, CGS), despite checking of numerous other sites by FLF. Brown Creeper: with dying trees all about, we must consider this now a pan-regional breeding species; a nest was reported in a Fayetteville backyard this year. (fide K. Slotnick).

House Wren: up on Kasoag, N Wilmurt, and Clinton F&WBBS; numbers higher throughout with max 17 Jun 13 CV (FGS). Winter Wren: moderate numbers on all THP walking surveys, e.g. 2-5 per day Jun 5, 6, 15, and 25, but unreported from southern highlands except for 1 near Nelson Jul 4 (MSR, CGS). Long-billed Marsh Wren: very scarce even in favored areas; max 8 Jun 14 SP marshes (CGS, MSR) and Jul 2 Clay Swamp (FGS); counts of 8-20 per day in early Aug SP (GP) undoubtedly include young of the year. Short-billed Marsh Wren: 3 vigorously singing males in Toad Harbor colony near W Monroe; 1 on Catfish Rd in New Haven Twp, a new site, Jul 16-18 (DC, mob); unreported from grassy marshes at SP-SSSP. Mockingbird: nest with young E of Jamesville with multiple sightings nearby (DC); 1 singing vigorously Jun 25 in an area of N Syr where the species has not been reported heretofore; birds also at Brewerton, Parish, and Hannibal (fide B. Burt). Catbird: number dropping steadily, 20 to 7, on Kasoag F&WBBS. Brown Thrasher: max 12 N Wilmurt F&WBBS; 1 noted Carter Sta in N Herkimer Co, where it is rare, Jun 22 (MSR).

Robin: definitely on the increase—up on N Wilmurt and Clinton F&WBBS; many tallies 50–80 per day and in all sectors. Wood Thrush: 42 Brkfld, 2 5 Clinton F&WBBS, 11 in 4.5 miles of woods roads in Redfield Twp (FGS). Hermit Thrush: most tallies 3–8 per day with 1–3 per day Fabius Twp (FLF), 7 in Brkfld, and 8 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS; low in RSP with only 5 in 6.5 miles of RR and woods roads (FGS); max 17 Aug 1 Forestport area (MSR, CGS). Swainson's Thrush: 10 in 5 miles Jun 6 and 9 in 4.5 miles Jun 15 of Redfield Twp woods roads (FGS). Eastern Bluebird: at least 19 sites, the majority with nesting evidence, reported in the Region.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1 in natural spruce Jun 6 near Redfield (FGS); noted at 3 different sites in spruce plantations E of S Hamilton Jun 25 (R. F. Andriele) and 2 Brkfld. Cedar Waxwing: 2 still migrating Jun 19 DH; reported widely with 45 in 4 miles Jun 25 THP and 58 Jun 17 Webb Twp. Loggerhead Shrike: singles sighted near Port Ontario Jun 3 and Williamstown Jun 25–28 (FGS, mob).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: best numbers from N-S valleys around Syr, e.g. max 11 Jun 13 CV; 7 in 5 miles of woods roads Redfield Twp Jun 6, somewhat high for that sector. Solitary Vireo: a low THP count of 4 in 4 miles Williamstown Twp Jun 25; unreported from hill country around Fabius but 4 noted Brkfld. Red-eyed Vireo: extremely common in THP with 94 in 5 miles of Redfield Twp woods roads Jun 3; also 94 on N Wilmurt but only 17 on Kasoag F&WBBS; 65 in 9 miles Big Moose-to-Beaver R Jun 17. Warbling Vireo: max 14 Jun 6 CV; 10 on Kasoag F&WBBS, a definite increase.

Black-and-white Warbler: very scarce at CV with max for that area only 3 Jun 13 (mob); still reasonably common, 3–5 per day, in THP and Adirondacks, with max 7 Jun 18 Big Moose lumber roads (FGS). Golden-winged Warbler: 2 Jun 12–14 Oswego (C. Wernick) are new locations; 2 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS where breeding was not suspected prior to 1969; also 6, the highest tally in 5 years, on Kasoag F&WBBS. Blue-winged Warbler: definite breeding—adult feeding recently fledged young—June 14 Onon valley (GS); noted again at Pompey and newly noted in Georgetown (both FLF). 2 Brewster's Warblers, fewer than usual, were reported this summer. Nashville Warbler: local concentration in RSP with 25 in a day Jun 13 including 14 in 6.5 miles of RR and woods (FGS); 1–5 per day in THP; 1–2 per day in southern highlands with 1 carrying food Jul 5 Brkfld; 1 feeding young CV Jun 13 establishes breeding there (FGS, mob). Parula Warbler: 15 in 20 miles of trails Jun 23–26 Big Moose and vcy (CGS). Yellow Warbler: max 84 Jun 4 SW Onon Co (GS); 46 Jun 13 CV; first migrants Jul 2 N Syr. Magnolia Warbler: Adirondack max 36 in 9 miles Big Moose-to-Beaver R Jun 17 (FGS); THP max a mere 11 in 4 miles Williamstown Twp Jun 25; in southern highlands 4 in 1 mile Georgetown Jun 28 (FLF) and 13 Brkfld. Black-throated Blue Warbler: Adirondack tallies excellent—15 in 9 miles and 10 in 5 miles in Webb Twp; in THP 16 in 5 miles Jun 5 and 8 in 4 miles Jun 25, both in Redfield Twp; none detected in any checked sectors (Fabius, Georgetown, Brkfld—mob) of southern highlands where formerly intermittently reported; 1 singing Jun 13 CV (MSR) can only be regarded as an anomaly. Myrtle Warbler: 35 in 9 miles Big Moose-to-Beaver R Jun 17, and 18 while canoeing 3 miles of Big Moose lakeshore Jun 26; in THP rather uncommon, only 1–4 per day despite much tramping; only singles in southern highlands (FLF, MSR, CGS) but 5 in RSP Jun 13 (D. W. Ackley, P. & S. Paquette). Black-throated Green Warbler: 13 in 3 miles Beaver R-to-Mud L Jun 24 (CGS, MSR) and 9 in 5 miles of Webb Twp lumber roads Jun 17 (FGS); in THP 17 and 15, Jun 5 and 6 respectively, in separate 5-mile woods road transects (FGS); a common warbler, probably the most common Dendroica, in southern highlands conifer plantations—2–4 per day in plantations at Muller Hill (DeRuyter Twp), Morgan Hill (Fabius Twp) and Georgetown (FLF, FD) and 33 Brkfld.

Cerulean Warbler: max 11, very low, Jun 13 in all of CV (mob) where 10 years

ago 18-20 per day were regular; rediscovered at Toad Harbor (MSR); newly located Jul 2 at Clay Swamp (FGS). Blackburnian Warbler: numbers appear up in both Adirondacks and THP—51 in 9 miles Big Moose-to-Beaver R Jun 17, 23 in 5 miles Jun 18 and 14 in 3 miles Jun 24 of Webb Twp lumber roads (FGS, CGS); 12 in 5 miles and 11 in 4.5 miles in Redfield Twp (JRB, FGS) and 20 in 4.5 miles Williamstown Twp (FGS); 1-3 per day in southern highlands (FLF, CGS). Chestnut-sided Warbler: 17 in 9 miles Big Moose-to-Beaver R (too coniferous to be considered prime habitat); 40 on N Wilmurt F&WBBS; THP counts excellent—25 in 5 miles Jun 6 and 49 in 4.5 miles Jun 15, both Redfield Twp, and 30 in 4.5 miles Williamstown Twp Jun 25; 2-4 per day (low) in southern highlands. Blackpoll Warbler: total of 5 males giving the territorial song Jun 17-18 Big Moose-Beaver R area (FGS); not found there Jun 22 nor 26 despite intensive searching by MSR and CGS. Pine Warbler: not located this year in the pine stands E of Boonville.

Ovenbird: 18 in 12 miles Jun 25 and 14 in 3 miles Jun 24, both Webb Twp (MSR, CGS); 12-14 per day in 5-6 miles and 12 in 4 miles THP (FGS); in Syr vicinity, however, very scarce, 1-3 per day, this true as far south as Fabius-Pompey; but 27 Brkfld is high. Northern Waterthrush: max 11 in 4.5 miles LJGMA Jun 15 (JRB, FGS) and 5 in 4.5 miles Williamstown Twp Jun 25 but, contrasting with these THP counts, none noted Jun 17-18 or 22-26 in Webb Twp in the Adirondacks. Louisiana Waterthrush: newly located at 950 ft. at Perryville Jul 4 and at 1100 ft. at Pompey Hollow gorge Jul 5 (both CGS, MSR).

Mourning Warbler: 1-4 per day Webb Twp Jun 17-26; in THP 12-14 per day in 4-5 miles of careful counting (FLF, RJS, mob); max 6 in CV Jun 13 (mob); scarce in southern highlands with 2-3 per day (mob). Yellowthroat: common in all sectors with Adirondack max 24 in 9 miles Big Moose-to-Beaver R Jun 17, 7-14 per day in THP, and on F&WBBSs 44 N Wilmurt, 23 Oneida and Kasoag, and 21 Clinton. Hooded Warbler: total of 10 singing males in 3 different Redfield Twp locations (FGS); 1 Jun 28 at Mycenae (MSR, CGS) and 1 Aug 2-15 near Lycoming (FGS)—all Onon escarpment and L Ontario sites, of which these last 2 reports respectively are examples, had been deserted for at least 2 years. Canada Warbler: Adirondack max 27 Jun 17 Big Moose-to-Beaver R and 19 Jun 18 in 5 miles Webb Twp; THP max 13 in 2 miles in Redfield Twp; 15 in 6.5 miles RSP (all FGS); in all censused sectors of southern highlands only 1-2 per day, very scarce (FLF, mob). American Redstart: Adirondack max 23 Jun 23 in 6.5 miles Twitchell Creek-to-Beaver R (MSR, CGS); in THP very high counts of 89 and 86 Jun 5 and 6 respectively in Redfield Twp (FGS); 1-7 per day in DeRuyter Twp (FLF) and Brkfld (CGS); only 38 in 10 miles of CV Jun 13 (mob).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: max for summer 25 Aug 9 Nine Mile Pt. WESTERN MEADOWLARK: 1 singing and calling vigorously Jun 21-25 near Canastota (MSR, CGS); no others reported. ORCHARD ORIOLE: imm male at CV Jun 13; also a pair including a fully adult male reared 2 young CV (photographed by DC). Baltimore Oriole: still migrating by DH Jun 19, 6 (FGS); summer max 60 Jun 13 CV. Rusty Blackbird: 8-10 per day thru summer in Webb Twp with max 20 Jun 23 Big Moose-to-Beaver R. Scarlet Tanager: 8-10 per day in THP and Adirondacks; however, max 22 Jun 13 C V (mob).

Cardinal: reported at both Morgan Hill and Arab Hill in Fabius Twp (FLF) and near Stokes N of Rome (CGS). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 6-14 per day in THP sectors and 5-10 per day in Adirondacks; in southern highlands usually 2-7 per day (FLF) but 17 Brkfld. Indigo Bunting: up on N Wilmurt F&WBBS to 20, from previous high of 6, and on Clinton from 1 to 13. Evening Grosbeak: 1-2 per day in Webb Twp; none in THP. Purple Finch: 2 pairs with young in Morrisville (A. Carter); 7-26 per day in Adirondacks; noted in small numbers, 5-10 per day, along L Ontario shore (Oswego—F. Vanghel, Nine Mile Pt—FGS). HOUSE FINCH: a pair Jun 28 Syr (CGS) is first summer Regional record. Rufous-sided Towhee: max

40 Jun 14 RSP, obviously a center for them; in numbers, 28 in a day, in Forestport Twp; 1 Jun 22 near Carter Station (CGS).

Savannah Sparrow: disappearing in the hay fields subjected to early cutting in N Onon and S Oswego Cos; however, common and perhaps increasing in southern highlands hay country where cuttings are later. Grasshopper Sparrow: newly located near N Wilmurt; also Richland Airport, Mexico Twp, Volney Twp, W Monroe Twp, Parish Twp (2 sites), and Amboy, all in Oswego Co; in Kirkland Twp, Cazenovia, Skaneateles Twp (2 sites), Cardiff, and Brkfld, all in the southern highlands. Henslow's Sparrow: new site Jul 5 near Cazenovia (MSR, CGS); 5 sites in N Clay Twp; the Port Byron vcy colonies were not detected this summer although birds were regularly reported there thru May. Vesper Sparrow: scarce throughout area—usually 2–7 per day only; as less and less row crop farming prevails, the species will grow even scarcer.

Slate-colored Junco: scarce this year in THP with max only 10 Jun 6; 30 (high) Brkfld; and 3–4 per day elsewhere in southern highlands—Muller, Arab, and Morgan Hills (FLF). Chipping Sparrow: up on both N Wilmurt and Clinton F&WBBSs with 40 and 41 respectively (previous high for both 18). White-throated Sparrow: 60 (high) Jun 14 RSP and 60–70 per day along 9 miles of RR in Webb Twp; newly located at Muller Hill in the southern highlands and again detected at Peterboro Swamp (FLF, FD); 1 Jun 20 at Toad Harbor (CGS) may be a stray from known Oneida L N-shore sites farther N and E. Lincoln's Sparrow: max 9 per day in Webb Twp Jun 17 (FGS); also 5 at different sites there Jun 25 (MSR, CGS). Song Sparrow: very good numbers locally—15–50 per day, and certain roadside counts 130–170 per day (CGS).

417 South Main St., North Syracuse 13212

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

DAVID C. GORDON

It was an extremely wet June with 6.45 inches of rain and variable temperatures from unseasonable cold to hot. The wet spell continued during the first half of July followed by very hot days throughout most of the rest of the period. There was high of 92 degrees on July 30. A heat wave with high humidity and temperatures in the 80's, and only a few scattered showers during the first half of August left much of the region parched.

High water pertained along eastern Lake Ontario shores until early Aug with a heavy alewife kill. Numbers of shorebirds thru the end of the period seemed generally low. The best species during this period, a Willet, has not been recorded here since 1957.

Localities: BCW—Brookside Cemetery, Watertown; CD—Camp Drum; ED—El Dorado; Jeff Co—Jefferson County; PRGMA—Perch River Game Management Area; SL Co—St. Lawrence County; THGMA—Tug Hill Game Management Area; THP—Tug Hill Plateau; Wat—Watertown; WHGMA—Wilson Hill Game Management Area.

Observers: JB—John Belknap; LC—Lee Chamberlaine; FC—Frank Clinch; DG—David Gordon; G&BP—Blenn and Betty Perrigo; MW—Mark Wolfe.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: in July at Crystal L, Jeff Co; Round L, SL Co (MW) as they are on most small lakes in this region. Pied-billed Grebe: common PRGMA. Great Blue Heron: visit to PRGMA herony Jun 29 found only one small, old, tilted nest vacant; no herons nested in this swamp altho adults were present all summer at PRGMA (DG). Green Heron: common. *COMMON EGRET*: 1 during period WHGMA (fide LC). American Bittern: common PRGMA. Canada Goose: 940 trapped for banding WHGMA Jul 14; 197 trapped for banding Perch Lake

Jul 13 (LC). Mallard and Black Ducks: flocking in early Aug PRGMA and L Ont. Gadwall: 1 Aug 15 ED (G&BP). Pintail: Aug 4-15 ED. Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal: flocking in large numbers. American Widgeon: 1 Aug 3 ED (G&BP). Shoveler: last Jun 13 PRGMA (MW)—late. Wood Duck: common thruout. Greater Scaup: 1 Aug 4 ED (DG). Hooded Merganser: 2 females BCW Jun 6 (DG).

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: pair nested Wellesley Is., 1 juv seen Jun 26 (FC). Red-tailed Hawk: appeared common. Broad-winged Hawk: Jul 25 southern SL Co (MW). **GOLDEN EAGLE:** 1 probably adult Jun 6 Cat Mountain near Wanakena (MW). Bald Eagle: 1 first wk Aug Perch L (fide LC). Marsh Hawk and Sparrow Hawk: both regularly seen thru period. Ruffed Grouse: reports indicate increasing population. Gray Partridge: 5 broods near Henderson, max in one brood 13 young (LC). Turkey: Wellesley Is. (FC). Virginia Rail and Sora: both PRGMA Aug. Common Gallinule: usual high population PRGMA thru period.

Semipalmated Plover: last Jun 13 (MW); Jul 31-Aug 15 ED. Ruddy Turnstone: Jul 31-Aug 15 ED. Upland Plover: several sightings. Solitary Sandpiper: Aug 1 BCW; Aug 15 ED (G&BP). **WILLET:** 1 ED Jul 31-Aug 4 (DG) seen several times, the second known Regional record. Greater Yellowlegs: Aug 12-15. Lesser Yellowlegs: common Jul 16-Aug 15 ED. Pectoral Sandpiper: Aug 3-8. Least Sandpiper: Jul 16-Aug 15. Short-billed Dowitcher: Jul 16-31. Stilt Sandpiper: singles Jul 31, Aug 1, 10 ED. Semipalmated Sandpiper: last Jun 13; Jul 21-Aug 15; 500 max Aug 12 (G&BP). Sanderling: Jul 23-Aug 15. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE:** 2 ED Aug 10 (DG).

Bonaparte's Gull: 4 Aug 10 ED (DG). Common Tern: low numbers seen along L Ontario until late July. Caspian Tern: Jun 13 ED; Jul 21-Aug 15 ED. Black Tern: thruout period. Screech Owl: nested in barn Wat, 4 young being fed Jun 25 (MW).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Ruby-throated Hummingbird: common THP. Belted Kingfisher: common thruout. Pileated Woodpecker: seemed to have increased in So Jeff Co this year. Red-headed Woodpecker: several records in vicinity Wat. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: common THP. Traill's Flycatcher: THP and So Jeff Co. All other flycatchers common except Olive-sided for which no report. Rough-winged Swallow: July 18-19 Crystal L, Jeff Co; Jul 22 near Wat (MW). Cliff Swallow: an ~~eratic~~ ^{eratic} species in this region but colony at High Market, THP, where it has been for many consecutive years. Brown Creeper: common THP. Winter Wren: common THP. Long-billed Marsh Wren: common PRGMA. Mockingbird: nest with 3 small young Jul 3 near Gouverneur (JB). Eastern Bluebird: pair feeding young near Brownville Jun 13 (DG); very few other reports. Golden-crowned Kinglet: small flock Aug 15 THGMA where they probably breed (DG).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: Jun 6 near Wanakena. Red-eyed Vireo: probably commonest songbird in deciduous woods. Black-and-white Warbler: common. Golden-winged Warbler: nest with 2 eggs Jun 2, 2 young in nest Jun 11-18, one mi W Natural Dam near Gouverneur (JB). Nashville Warbler: several Jeff Co records. Parula Warbler: Jun 6 near Wanakena (MW). Yellow Warbler: common. Magnolia and Black-throated Blue Warblers: common THP. Myrtle Warbler: THGMA and Adirondacks. Black-throated Green, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided Warblers: THGMA and elsewhere. Pine Warbler: singles Jun 14-21 Crystal L, Jeff Co (MW). Ovenbird: population may be low locally. Northern Waterthrush: THGMA and elsewhere. Mourning Warbler: few records locally this year. Yellow-throat: common. Canada Warbler: common THP. American Redstart: common.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Scarlet Tanager: male beginning molt Aug 15 THGMA. Grasshopper Sparrow: 1 singing near Limerick Jun 13 (DG) only report. Slate-colored Junco: feeding fledged young early Aug THGMA. Swamp Sparrow: only sparrow of more common species that seemed scarce.

1347 Sherman St., Watertown, N.Y. 13601

REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures for the period averaged close to normal. Precipitation was below average, and almost entirely made up of scattered thunder showers.

The general lack of birding, and rather skimpy reports from contributors precludes any report of general trends. Your reporter observes that herons were lower than usual, whereas breeding waterfowl appeared better. The shorebird movement started in mid-July as expected, but only the Waterman club was doing any observing. Flycatchers continued low as reported last spring until mid-August when they started to pick up in numbers. Tree Swallows were in full movement by mid-July. The Yellow-throated Vireo was virtually unreported throughout the region; but several warbler records of species usually found to the north and at higher elevation were reported in parts of Harriman State Park, suggesting the possibility of breeding. Fringillid numbers were normal. Only two birds of truly unusual status were reported: one, a nesting pair of Goshawk in Dutchess Co, and the other a Northern Phalarope. Both are described in the report.

Observers cited: GB—Gene Brown; FG—Florence Germond; JG—Maj. John Getgood; SG—Stanley Grierson; TH—Thelma Haight; FH—Fred Hough; MK—Mary Key; JO—Jack Orth VP—Vivian Parkhurst; DS—Dan Smiley; W,TS—William & Trixie Strauss; EDT—Edward D. Treacy; MV—Marion VanWagner; OW—Otis Waterman.

Abbreviations: BBS-1—Federal Breeding Bird Survey, Orange Co., Jun 7 Westbrookville to Unionville; BBS-2—Federal Breeding Bird Survey, Orange Co., Jun 21; Warwick to Guymard; BS-3—Federal Breeding Bird Survey, Westchester Co., Jun 23, Somers to Verplank; BFPP—Briarcliff Farms, Pine Plains, Dutch; USMA—U.S. Military Academy, West Point; WBC—Waterman Bird Club. Counties by first 4 or 5 letters. Dutch—Dutchess; Oran—Orange; Putn—Putnam; Sull—Sullivan; Rock—Rockland; Ulst—Ulster; West—Westchester.

LOONS—DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: reported nesting in 3 areas of Dutch (WBC). Great Blue Heron: Only a few single birds reported with the exception of the few breeders reported at Tamarack Sw, Dutch, 10 nests active but number of young uncounted. Little Blue Heron: 2 imm Aug 17 BFPP (TH, VP, et al). Black-crowned Night Heron: 1 July 25 Red Oaks Mill, Dutch (MK). American Bittern: 2 flying over Yorktown, West on BBS-3 (JG, EDT); 1 thru June Amenia (W, TS); 1 Aug 6 Wappingers Falls (MK). Mute Swan: 6 near Verplank BBS-3; 1 June 20 Hudson R at Cornwall (JG). Mallard and Black Duck: Young recently off nest obs July 15 in Dutch; normal thru period. Green-winged Teal: 6 July 28 BFPP (TH). Wood Duck: unusual conc of 15 on small pond in Greenville, Oran BBS-2.

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: normal to better. GOSHAWK: A pair and nest found June 15 on south side of Stissing Mt, Dutch by nonbirders, 2 ad verified there on July 1 by FG and TH, Dick Guthrie and friend obs 2 imm birds off the nest on July 19, first breeding record for Dutch. Red-shouldered Hawk: A nest with 2 young reported Jun 10 at Cross River, West (Fred Stone). Osprey: 1 late date Jun 2 at Mt. Kisco (Mrs. Ronald Wells). Red-tailed Hawk: absent from Wawarsing where it has nested for years; generally normal thru rest of region. Broad-winged Hawk: very few reports, probably due to lack of observers. Sparrow Hawk: normal; several reports of nesting. Bobwhite: WBC reports resident population down apparently after severe winter; 1 heard near Westtown, Oran on BBS-1. Ring-necked Pheasant: WBC reports fewer each year in Dutch; perhaps there should be some concern for competition in the future with the recently introduced Green Pheasant; 1 unusual report July 12 on USMA, rarely observed in the highlands (JG). Virginia Rail: only report, 2 in Jun Amenia (W,TS). Common Gallinule: 1 pr with 1 young Amenia (W,TS); 1 ad thru Aug Pleasant Valley (MV). Killdeer: population normal;

usual few nesters. Woodcock: 4 Jun 6 Rhinebeck (FG, OW). Common Snipe: 1 heard courting Town of Greenville, Oran on BBS-2. Spotted Sandpiper: the usual few reports. Lesser Yellowlegs. ab 20 Aug 15 at BFPP (TH, VP). Least Sandpiper: ab 30 Aug 15 BFPP. Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3-5 Aug 15 BFPP. Short-billed Dowitcher: 1 ad in winter plumage Aug 15 BFPP (TH, VP). *NORTHERN PHALAROPE*: 1 ad in winter plumage Aug 17-25 at BFPP (mob), as close as 20 ft obs with scopes and binoculars, first co record since 1924 (WBC). Gulls: normal; by end of season Herring Gulls appeared to outnumber Ring-bills by 4:1. Laughing Gull: unusually good numbers along the Hudson to the mid-Hudson region by the end of period; relatively few adults, most this year's young. Cuckoos: reported poor in Dutch, but just the reverse elsewhere; never more abundant thru rest of region, BBS-1 found 13 Black-billed in 10 stops, Yellow-billed in 6 stops; BBS-2 found 24 Black-billed in 23 stops, and Yellow-billed in 7; BBS-3 found 7 Black-billed, but no Yellow-billed. Screech Owl: the usual few reports. Great Horned Owl: fewer reports than usual; 2 in Dutch; 1 in West. Barred Owl: only 1 report from Dutch.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: almost unreported; 2 in Jun Amenia. Common Nighthawk: first migrants Aug 14 Pleasant Valley; continued in good numbers into the fall season; about 14 obs in Poughkeepsie area thru summer. Chimney Swift: good resident populations throughout region. Ruby-throated Hummingbird; only inc obs in the Wawarsing area, reported nesting in the Kripplebush area for the first time in several years (FH). Pileated Woodpecker, poorly reported in the Hudson Highlands, but good in the Dutch area. Red-headed Woodpecker. 1 all of Jun and Jul BFPP, 2 there on Jul 29 (VP), nesting not confirmed. Flycatchers, most species scarce until Aug 1, then common to end of period. Phoebe: reported normal in the Wawarsing area dur spring and summer, but declining towards the end of period; an interesting report of 2 broods of the same pair lost to what appeared to be an arthropod infestation at Tri-Loba Hill Sanct, Katonah (SG); 15 on BBS-1 in 13 stops. *YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER*: 1 Jun 15 near Island Pd, Harriman St Pk (GB). Traill's Flycatcher: 1 singing "fitz-bew" Jun 3 Iona Is; WBC reports 5 pr nesting in Dutch. Least Flycatcher: the scarcity of last spring continued until Aug 1 when a few more were reported. Wood Pewee: up in the Mohonk area (DS), but very few elsewhere. Tree Swallow: normal residents; good movement by Jul 15; abundant by end of period. Bank Swallow: Plentiful in all areas. Rough-winged Swallow: nesting birds seem up. Barn Swallow: normal to better. Cliff Swallow: nested in good numbers at Camp Buckner, USMA; 7 pr nested at farm at Upton L, Dutch. Purple Martin: last report Aug 9 Red Oaks Mill (MK); 3 colonies known in Dutch; Pleasant Valley—4 pr; Amenia—5 pr; BFPP—7 pr; a new nesting location discovered at Westtown, Oran on BBS-1. Common Crow: well reported on all BBS routes. Paridae: a good season. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 1 Jun 11 Red Oaks Mill (MK); 2 Jun 15 near Is Pd, Harriman State Park (GB). House Wren: excellent numbers; Jack Orth reports nesting in 7 out of 7 boxes on his place at Wawarsing, some with double broods; excellent numbers on most BBS routes. Long-billed Marsh Wren: continues good. Mockingbird: nested in the Monticello area (Ken Niven); BBS-1 had 9; BBS-2 had 6 and BBS-3 had 6. Brown Thrasher: generally normal, but BBS-3 had none. Thrushes generally normal. Wood Thrush: BBS-3 had 30. Hermit Thrush: heard singing Jun 15 at Harriman St. Pk. near Island Pd (GB). Bluebird: remains critically low; unreported except for Dutch where WBC bird box program resulted in more than 75 young being banded. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: not usually reported after spring; 1 Aug 8 and again Aug 22 at Wawarsing (JO); 1 Jul 31 Pleasant Valley (Emily Becquet); another July 26 Red Oaks Mill (MK). Golden-crowned Kinglet: usually unreported in summer; 1 Aug 12 Millbrook (MK). Cedar Waxwing: almost unreported thru spring and summer; DS reports numbers improved in Mohonk area; JG reports 6 Aug 2 USMA and Marty Borko reports mid-Aug arrivals in Wurtsboro area.

VIREOS—SPARROWS: White-eyed Vireo: reported nesting in the New Paltz area (Robert Pyle); regularly obs on Mine Rd, USMA thru Jun 8 (JG). Yellow-throated Vireo: almost unreported. Red-eyed Vireo: normal. Warblers: most resident species normal; numbers off in Putn. Worm-eating Warbler: 2 Jun nesting reports in Dutch (WBC); obs regularly thru period on the south side of the Torn, USMA (JG). Brewsters Warbler: 1 Aug 2 USMA (JG). Nashville Warbler: singing Jun 15 near Is Pd, Harriman St Pk (GB). Magnolia Warbler: 1 Aug 9 USMA (JG). Black-throated Blue Warbler: heard Jun 15 near Is Pd, Harriman St Pk (GB). Cerulean Warbler: last obs Jun 21 near Weyant's Pd, USMA (JG). Blackburnian Warbler: 1 obs Jul 6 carrying food near Stissing Mt, Dutch. Blackpoll Warbler: 1 Jun 1 Dutch (FG). Prairie Warbler: good numbers of last spring persisted thru summer; WBC reports 10 to 15 pr nesting in Dutch. Northern Waterthrush: obs Jun 21 and again on Aug 2 on USMA (JG). Hooded Warbler: last obs July 12 near the Torn, USMA very likely breeds there. Canada Warbler: 2 probable migrants Aug 9 at Weyant's Pd, USMA a very early date (JG); 1 Jun 15 near Is Pd, Harriman St Pk (GB). Red-winged Blackbird: excellent numbers; BBS-2 reports 359 spread over 33 stops. Baltimore Oriole: in good numbers despite loss of elms; 28 birds in 23 stops on BBS-1. Common Grackle: extremely abundant in Putn and No West where BB-3 found 144 feeding on "white moths." Scarlet Tanager: generally normal. Cardinal: JO reports numbers up in the Wawarsing area; BBS-3 produced 16 in West; but generally low thru rest of Region. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: JO reports numbers better than usual at Wawarsing. Indigo Bunting: generally good locally. Purple Finch: WBC reports 8-10 pr all summer in Dutch. House Finch: WBC reports noticeable increase in Aug, 1 feeder had a flock estimated at 25; first nesting in Monticello area (Ken Niven); 2 obs in Greenville, Oran on BBS-1. Grasshopper Sparrow: numbers normal in Dutch, 8-10 pr all summer; BBS-1 found 3 in usual location near West-town. Vesper Sparrow: seemed quite scarce. Slate-colored Junco: heard calling Jun 15 near Is Pd, Harriman St Pk (GB); obs nesting in a cavity in a yellow birch about 8 ft from the ground on SlideMt(FH).

Autumn reports due Dec 5.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, 10928

REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

Once again the summer report is largely drawn from notes taken on Gardiner's Island. Dennis Puleston visited the island June 4-7 and July 2-7 to study the Osprey population. His report not only documents an encouraging number of young Ospreys fledged this year, but also breeding Marsh Hawks, Oystercatchers, Long-eared Owl, and impressive numbers of waterfowl. A heron colony contained breeding Glossy Ibis and Cattle Egret, the first record for New York State. The future of Gardiner's Island as the bird paradise it is today depends on continued maintenance as a non-public area with limited access to serious researchers. It is hoped the island will remain in the capable trust of the concerned Gardiner family.

In a move to advertise the declining numbers of breeding colonial species, we have decided to report on colonies in the introduction rather than under the appropriate family, where the significance is lost among numerous other reports. We petition all observers to visit, census (even guesstimate) numbers of nests and forward reports to us (with exact locations) to make the colonial bird report as complete as possible. The census figures in the following reports are all numbers of breeding pairs:

I. Heron Colonies

1. Jones Beach State Park (west of parking field #3), Jun 9 (TD)
Common Egret 20; Snowy Egret 8; Black-crowned Night Heron 15; Glossy Ibis 12.
2. Oak Island (west of Captree Island), Jul 24 (PB, B. Ward)
Little Blue Heron 3; *CATTLE EGRET* one; Common Egret 2; Snowy Egret 75; Black-crowned Night Heron 100; *GLOSSY IBIS* 4—the Cattle Egret nesting is the first for New York State. Two young unable to fly were seen on the July visit (see Field Note in this issue). The breeding Glossy Ibis have extended their range approximately 80 miles from Oak Beach, their previous northern-most nesting location on the East coast.
3. Gardiner's Island, Jun 4-7 and Jul 2-7 (DP, et al)
Little Blue Heron 3; *Cattle Egret* one; Common Egret 2; Snowy Egret 75; Black-crowned Night Heron 100; *Glossy Ibis* 4—the Cattle Egret nesting is the first for New York State. Two young unable to fly were seen on the July visit (see Field Note in this issue). The breeding Glossy Ibis have extended their range approximately 80 miles from Oak Beach, their previous northern-most nesting location on the East coast.

II. Gull Colonies

1. North side of Loop Causeway, near Pt. Lookout, Jun 3, 9 (TD)
Great Black-backed Gull 1; Herring Gull 350+/-50.
2. Jones Beach State Park (west of parking field #3) Jun 9 (TD)
Great Black-backed Gull 2-3; Herring Gull 150+/-30.
3. West Inlet Island, north of Moriches Inlet (DP)
Herring Gull "about 75"—gulls have apparently bred here alongside terns for several years, although this fact not documented previously.

III. Tern and skimmer Colonies

1. Breezy Pt., Queens County Jun 27, Jul 12, 26 (TD, F. Heath)
Common Tern 2000+; Least Tern 50; Black Skimmer 2—about 300-500 nests were lost in early July to a grass fire. A fisherman claimed that young boys had maliciously set the fire "to see what effect it would have on the birds."
2. South side of Loop Causeway, near Pt. Lookout, Jun 3, 9 (TD)
Common Tern 250; Least Tern 70; Black Skimmer 12.
3. North side of Loop Causeway, near Pt. Lookout, Jun 9 (TD)
Common Tern 8—nesting at periphery of an established gull colony, the nearest gull's nest being but 25 yards from one tern's nest.
4. Jones Beach State Park, West End, many visits (M. Gochfeld)
Common Tern 1600; Roseate Tern 4; Black Skimmer 30.
5. West Inlet Island, north of Moriches Inlet (DP)
"several hundred pairs of terns laid eggs, but no young were raised due probably entirely to rat predation."
Note: last summer's report included colonies at Grass Island and Fox Island, both west of Captree Island. It was noted that birds attempting to nest here were extremely heavily harrassed by visiting pleasure boaters. The inevitable consequence was that "no terns nested on either island this year." (DF)

The Mourning Dove is a species which has experienced a phenomenal growth in numbers in recent years. Roy Latham, an active field ornithologist at Orient over the last 70 years, has documented this increase in a recent article "The Mourning Dove at Orient, Long Island" (*Engelhardtia*, Vol 3 (1): 1, 1970). "From 1900 to 1920, this dove was so scarce that to record one... in a year was a noted observation. By 1925, the Mourning Dove had become regular and common. In recent years, the daily number at the ground feeding plot on my farm has generally ranged

from ten to twenty and the maximum of thirty. Before 1925, no Mourning Doves were recorded nesting at Orient, but, now three or more pairs nest in my yard every year. April and May are usually the months for the first nests at Orient. Prior to 1970, my earliest egg records were found during late March and early April. On 9 March, 1970 I found a nest with eggs eight feet above the ground in a red cedar in a yard. The earliest egg date given by Bull (*Birds of the New York Area*, Harper and Row, New York, 1964) was 20 March."

The probable reason for the species increase in the 1920's was an end to indiscriminate hunting practices and also perhaps, to climatological factors. The real explosion in numbers since the late 1950's, however, seems directly linked to an increase in winter bird feeders. Bull's book (loc. cit.) includes data up to 1963; since then other earlier local egg dates published in the *Kingbird* were 16 March and 14 March. This trend toward nesting earlier might be a reaction to increased population pressures, although warmer weather and an increased number of observers cannot be ruled out as contributing factors.

Rarities included in this report are Sabine's Gull, Chuck-will's-widow and a belated Brown Pelican record. A Western Tanager put in an unseasonal late June appearance.

Contributors frequently cited: PB—Paul Buckley; TD—Thomas Davis; DF—Darrel Ford; RG—Robert Giffen; MK—Michel Kleinbaum; AL—Anthony Lauro; WN—William Norse; DP—Dennis Puleston; BS—Barbara Spencer.

LOONS—DUCKS: *BROWN PELICAN*: belated report—one flying out of Moriches Inlet Aug 11, 1969 (BS)—only 10 previous records, the last in 1962. Gannet: sub-adult, Jul 26 Jones (MK)—now regularly reported in Jul and Aug. Glossy Ibis: max 88 Jul 26 Hempstead Lake State Park (S. Dempsey). Canada Goose: "at least 100 prs. breeding on Gardiner's Island." (DP). Gadwall: "the commonest breeding duck on Gardiner's Island, at least 100 prs." (DP). Pintail: 3 Jul 28 Jamaica Bay Refuge (WN)—has not been proven to breed since 1962.

HAWKS—OWLS: Marsh Hawk: 2 prs raised a total of 5 young on Gardiner's Island (DP). Osprey: "This year 25 young were fledged on Gardiner's Island, the same total as last year, but a lot better than 1966, when only 3 young were fledged. The situation on Long Island itself is still very poor. Only 2 young out of 10 nests on the North Fork, 3 young out of 12 nests on the South Fork, and only one young for the rest of Long Island." (DP). American Oystercatcher: estimated 30 prs breeding on Gardiner's Island (DP). Long-billed Dowitcher: adult, Jul 28 Jamaica Bay Refuge (WN)—"in full breeding plumage, barred sides seen, call heard"—early. Stilt Sandpiper: max 50 Jul 28 Jamaica Bay Refuge (WN). American Avocet: Jul 17 Mecox Bay (PB, C. McKeever)—note an increased number of reports since the fall of 1968. Wilson's Phalarope: female Jun 19 Jones (W. Friton); Jul 28—thru period Jamaica Bay Refuge (WN, et al). Parasitic Jaeger: 2 adults Jul 9 Peconic (K. Malone)—rare at this season and in Long Island Sound, probably non-breeders. *SABINE'S GULL*: adult Aug 25 Mecox Bay (BS); Royal Tern: Jun 13 Belliport (DP)—early. Long-eared Owl: pr with young Jul 15 Gardiner's Island (R. T. Peterson).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Chuck-will's-widow: 2nd week of Jun—Jul 21, Islip (R. and L. Hollins, RG, R. Budliger, DF, PB)—calling bird, seen once by PB; this location one mile from the one where an individual was reported last year on May 27–30, 3rd Regional record. Brown Creeper: nest with young Jun 6 Oakdale (AL, RG)—has not been reported breeding on Long Island since 1963. Eastern Bluebird: pr feeding young Jun 6 Oakdale (AL)—very rare breeder on Long Island, we know of no other recent records.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Western Tanager: adult male May 9 Central Park (S. Bahrt)—color photographed, seen there again on Jun 22 (R. Pasquier).

AN OPINION: Barbara Spencer writes "...last summer I saw a Black-billed Magpie here in Sea Cliff on Aug 23. It has been seen...for about a month before that. I just recently confirmed that it was indeed an escape. Shortly after August the bird disappeared from the Sea Cliff area. On Oct 29 I saw a magpie at Jones Beach, as did many others. Inasmuch as the Jones bird stayed around in an aimless way into January, and its appearance followed the disappearance of the Sea Cliff bird, I submit that it is a tenable hypotheiss that they are one in the same. At any rate, these facts cast doubt upon the Jones bird's status as a migrant."

Note: Please submit fall reports before Dec. 10.

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Lee Morgan, 4 Windsor Lane, East Northport, New York 11731

SURVEY OF CLUB PERIODICALS

ALICE E. ULRICH

Mrs. Ulrich, Chairman of the Bulletin Exchange Committee, has made a survey of Federation member clubs to determine which publish periodicals which they are willing to exchange with other clubs. Her report follows:

<i>Club</i>	<i>Name of Periodical</i>	<i>Exchange</i>	<i>Person to receive exchange</i>
Alan Devoe Bird Club	The Warbler	Yes	Miss Mary Mickle, Center St., Chatham, N.Y. 12037
Allegany County Bird Club	Allegany County Bird Club News	Yes	Mr. Lou L. Burton, John St., Belmont, N.Y. 14813
Auburn Bird Club of Cayuga County	No periodical at present		
Baldwin Bird Club	Long Island Naturalists	Yes	Mr. Alexander Hobart, 928 Goodrich St., Uniondale, N.Y.
Brooklyn Bird Nature Club	The Clapper Rail	Yes	Mr. Robert Clermont, 48 St., St. Marks Pl., Staten Island, N.Y. 10301
Buffalo Audubon Society	Audubon Outlook	Yes	Mr. Robert Hull, 254 Hedstrum Dr., Buffalo, N.Y. 14226
Buffalo Ornithological Society	The Prothonotary	Yes	Miss Margaret Wendling 87 Garrison Road, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221
Burroughs Audubon Nature Club	The Tanager	Yes	Mrs. Rachel M. Lanphere, 135 Meigs St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607
Cayuga Bird Club	No periodical at present		
Chemung Valley Audubon Society	Chemung Valley Aud. Soc. Bulletin	Yes	Miss Wilfred Howard, Coburn St., Elmira, N.Y. 14904

Cortland County Bird Club	Newsletter	Yes	Mrs. Harry Johnson, 1714 East Homer Rd., Cortland, N.Y. 13045
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society	The Belted Kingfisher	Yes	Miss Ethel Hanford, Huntington Memorial Library Oneonta, N.Y. 13820
Eaton Bird Club	No periodical at present		
Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club	Orange Feather	Yes	Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club, c/o Carrie Carnright, 49 Duncan Av., Cornwall-on-Hudson, N.Y. 12520
Genesee Ornithological Society	The Goshawk	Yes	Genesee Ornith. Soc., c/o Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607
Great South Bay Audubon Society	The Sandpiper	Yes	Mrs. Eugene File III, 252 W. 9th St., Deer Park, N.Y. 11729
Greene County Bird Club	Whip-poor-will	Yes	Mrs. Martha Bush, RFD #1 Athens, N.Y. 12015
Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club, Inc.	Feathers	Yes	Mrs. Francis P. Bundy, Ch. of Pub., RD #1, Box 55, Scotia, N.Y. 12302
Huntington Audubon Society	The Killdeer	Yes	Huntington Aud. Soc., PO Box 735, Huntington, N.Y. 12561
Jamestown Audubon Society	Jamestown Aud. Soc. Newsletter	Yes	Jamestown Aud. Soc., PO Box Jamestown, N.Y. 14701
John Burroughs Natural His. Soc., Inc.	The Chirp	Yes	Mrs. Daniel Smiley, Mohonk Lake, New Paltz, N.Y. 12561
Keuka Park Conservation Club	No report		
Kirkland Bird Club	No periodical at present		
Lake Erie Bird Club	No periodical at present		
Linnaean Society of New York	No report		
Lyman Langdon Audubon Society	No report		
Moriches Bay Audubon Society	No report		
Natural History Sec. Staten Island Insti. of Arts & Sciences	No periodical at present		

Naturalists Club of Broome County	The Gnatcatcher	Yes	Mrs. Newell Washburn, 2008 Galaxy Dr., Vestal, N.Y. 13850
North Country Bird Club	The Upland Plover	Yes	Miss Muriel Winder, 556 Coffeen St., Watertown, N.Y. 13601
Oneida Bird Club	Oneida Bird Club Newsletter	Yes	Mrs. Stanley Schultz, 'Bird World', Sherrill, N.Y. 13461
Onondaga Audubon Society	The Kestrel	Yes	Miss Marge Rusk, 220 Ostrom Av. Syracuse, N.Y. 13210. To get on the Kestrel mailing list: Miss Marge Mathis, S. Ivy Trail, Baldwinsville, N.Y. 13027
Queens County Bird Club	News and Notes	No	Too many exchanges at present
Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club	Wings over Dutchess (Bul.)	Yes	Mrs. Paul J. Soley, Miller Hill Road, RD #1, LaGrangeville, N.Y. 12540
Rockland Audubon Society	No report		
Saw Mill River Audubon Society	Saw Mill River Aud. Soc. Bulletin	Yes	Mrs. Jacqueline Coyle, 274 Millwood Dr., Mt. Kisco, N.Y. 10549
Scarsdale Audubon Society	Scarsdale Aud. Society Bulletin	Yes ¹	Mrs. Sidney A. Rosner, 54 Mamaroneck Rd., Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583
Schuyler County Bird Club	The Pileated — discontinued		
Suffolk County Audubon Society	No periodical at present time. Hope to have one in near future		Mrs. Myrna Hemmerick, Box 203, Setauket, N.Y. 11733
Sullivan County Audubon Society	Warblers	Yes	Mr. Jerome Kerner, Hastings Dr., Grahamville, N.Y. 12740
Tioga County Bird Club	The Blue Jay	Yes	Miss Mildred White, 1 West Front St., Owego, N.Y. 13820

¹ with reservations

Get in touch with the person listed for the Club with which you wish to exchange your periodical.

Do not send any exchanges to Mrs. Ulrich.

Please send any errors to Mrs. Ulrich.

If clubs which have not reported wish to send their club data to Mrs. Ulrich, she will prepare it for an addendum to this survey in a future issue of *The Kingbird*.

193 LaSalle Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14214

BOOK REVIEW

THE INLAND ISLAND by Josephine W. Johnson. Simon and Schuster, 1969. 159 pp.

The growing awareness of ecology's realism may be having its influence on the new nature writing if *The Inland Island* by Josephine W. Johnson is an example. There is a lot about birds in this book, about her 'island' (her farm)—and most of it is shocking from what I have heard my fellow birders say.

"Have you seen the beak of a brown creeper?" this Pulitzer Prize-winning author challenges her readers. "There's a scythe—a scimitar! Think how it looks to the small bark beetles. Hammered steel to them. A vicious thing and huge—the fishhook beak of this tiny bird like a speckled egg."

As for the birds that come to her feeder—"Two downies. They look dirty. They always do.... A ladderback redbelly came and gorged on damp bread.... Just saw the blue jays stuff each other with bread-crumbs."

Compare this with "the confiding and cheerful Downy" kind of description that has dominated much of the nature literature about birds. This is another woman writing: Mabel Osgood Wright in *Gray Lady and the Birds* published by The MacMillan Company in 1907. It is one of several period books on birds and nature I have been collecting to ascertain the feeling with which earlier writers approached the environment. The comparison between the two women writers was contrasting with Mrs. Wright sometimes resorting to an anthropomorphic and somewhat sentimental "Dear little Jenny Wren" compared to Mrs. Johnson's "fat wrens" which "sing beautifully."

Such comparisons, however, can lead to fragile simplifications because Mrs. Wright's anthropomorphism can be infused with a realistic style as in the eating habits of her Downy Woodpecker: "Every stroke with which he knocks at the door of an insect's retreat sounds the crack of doom. He pierces the bark with his beak, then with his barbed tongue drags forth an insect, and moves on to tap a last summons on the door of the next in line."

Perhaps Mrs. Johnson's realism has actually been more latent than absent in American nature writing. Take, for example, a feminine predecessor of Mrs. Wright, Emily Dickinson. She was blunt in her description of what I am convinced is the familiar robin which would most likely show up in the yard of the New England home which Miss Dickinson seldom left:

"A bird came down the walk:
He did not know I saw;
He bit an angle-worm in halves
And ate the fellow raw."

You would almost believe that Miss Dickinson had been well aware of such words as *ecology* or *food chain*—that our natural environment, as far as living forms are concerned, is made up of a continuous consumerism; that life is perpetuated and evolved on an endless mill of death.

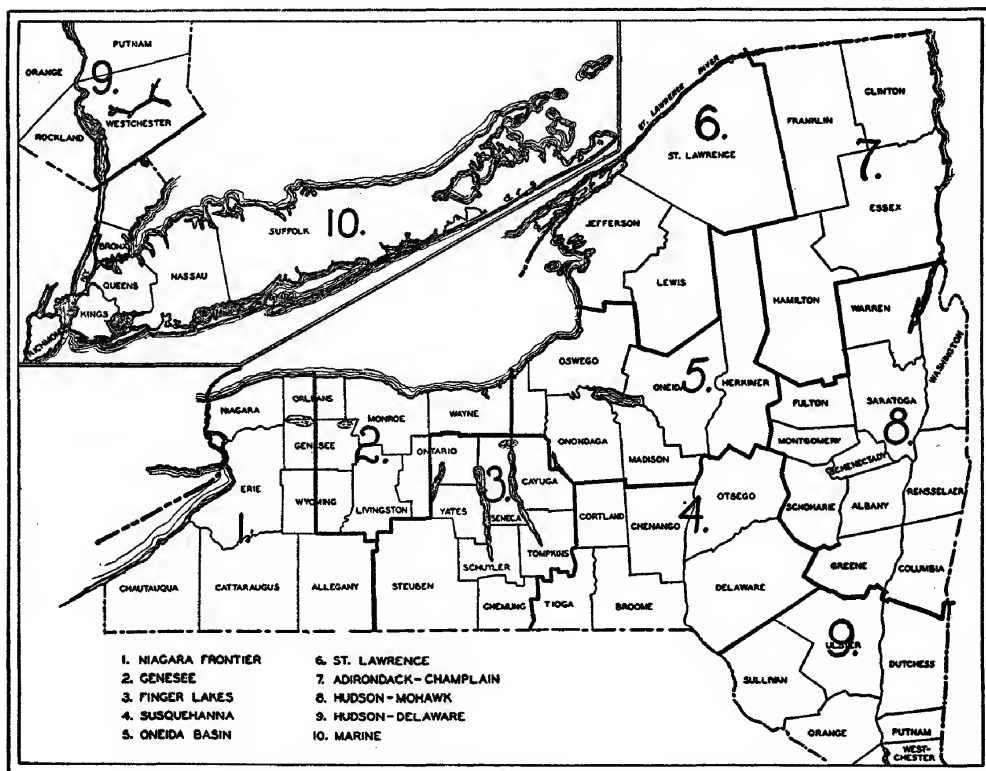
All this is a hard reality to face—and, indeed, in much of our nature literature it has been overlooked and instead a kind of heroism of many of earth's creatures has been accented like Mrs. Wright's Downy Woodpecker feeding on "injurious insects" as though it was serving man. She cites "the apple-tree borer as one against whom he (the woodpecker) wages war."

It seems that Mrs. Johnson with her provocative vocabulary and phrasing is attempting to deal with nature's reality as with her description of the kingfisher: "What big, beady, sharp, stern eyes he has. What a beautiful speckled ruff—and that vibrating fan, his crest! In the shadows, his blue had a greyish cast, his red, the red-brown of dry blood. He kept up a constant trilling. Is he trying to scare up a fish? He dived with a splash, returned frowzy wet, crest dripping. He swallowed the minnow and shook his wings. Feathers awry—rust, blue, white, every which way. A great squat bird. A marvelous bird. He honors our small polluted stream."

Ironical! In her hard modern realism, Mrs. Johnson also has her heroes.

Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., 333 Bedell Street, Freeport, New York 11520

REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2

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